





## Albright sees 'steady progress' on Middle East peace deal

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is making "steady progress" towards an Israeli-Palestinian agreement that would unlock the long-stalled Middle East peace process, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Thursday.

"We are very hopeful that we will be able to move towards an agreement," Albright said, answering questions after a speech at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace, a Washington think tank.

Albright, however, made no prediction as to when she thought an accord providing for an Israeli handover of more West Bank land to the Palestinians might be reached.

The secretary of state was speaking as U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross pursued a mission in the

region to try to narrow Israeli-Palestinian differences. Ross said Thursday he would extend his stay by one day, until Saturday.

Although Palestinians have said Ross has had no success in bringing the sides closer together, Albright said he had made "some progress." She gave no details.

Albright noted that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat would be attending the U.N. General Assembly session in New York next week and she would be meeting them.

She said the format and venue of that meeting, or meetings, had yet to be decided.

Israel and the Palestinians are haggling over a U.S. proposal for Israel to withdraw from another 13 per

cent of the West Bank in return for tougher Palestinian measures to crack down on guerrilla violence.

Although U.S. officials refuse to discuss the details, differences are believed to centre on the nature of the Palestinian security measures and an Israeli demand that some of the land it hands over should be held as a "nature reserve."

In her remarks on Thursday, Albright stressed the role played in Middle East peace efforts by President Bill Clinton, beleaguered by a scandal over a prosecutor's report that he had an affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"I just have to say that [the Middle East peace process] is a subject that I work on every day, and the president has been deeply involved in, and I think we

all believe, especially the president and I, that we need to move this phase of it to a conclusion," she said.

"It has been long and not easy. Gaps, differences have existed between the parties but I believe that we're making steady progress," she added.

The peace process has been effectively deadlocked since March 1997, when Israel broke ground on a Jewish housing project in east Jerusalem, which Palestinians see as the capital of a future state.

Washington's hope is that if it can broker the pullback deal, talks can then begin to resolve the "final status" of Palestinian self-rule areas and end the long conflict.

U.S. officials say they are awaiting the results of Ross' mission before deciding next moves.



DIPLOMATS BURIED IN IRAN: Scores of Iranian mourners Friday attend the funeral of six Iranian diplomats and an Iranian journalist killed in Afghanistan by the Taliban militia last month (AFP photo)

## Khatami to meet with Iranians at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — In an unusual move, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami is to meet at the United Nations with a "large group" of Iranians from the United States, a U.N. official said Thursday.

The official told AFP that the Iranian president had reserved a U.N. conference hall, which can contain as many people as the U.N. General Assembly hall, for the meeting at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday.

According to another U.N. source, 800 people are expected to attend the meeting with Khatami, a moderate who is making his first visit to the United States since becoming president in May last year.

The U.N. official meanwhile noted that while U.N. member states have been known to request U.N. rooms for meetings with their nationals, he could remember "nothing of this magnitude" in the past.

The main reason for

Khatami's short visit to New York, where he is due to arrive during the weekend, is to address the U.N. General Assembly session on Monday.

He is not scheduled to meet with U.S. officials, but Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi will attend a meeting on Afghanistan along with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, when asked by AFP to confirm Sunday's meeting, would not give details. "The president will be coming here and he'll have a number of engagements inside the United Nations, including a meeting with some Iranians, and including an address to the General Assembly," Zarif said.

Members of the exile opposition National Council of Resistance plan to demonstrate during Khatami's visit here, notably on Monday to coincide with his General Assembly speech.

## Israel frees scientist who spied for Soviets

BEERSHEBA (AFP) — An Israeli expert in bacteriological warfare who was found guilty of passing secrets to the former Soviet Union was released on Friday after serving 15 years in jail.

But Marcus Klingberg, 80, will have to live under permanent surveillance under the terms of a decision handed down by the Beersheba district court on Sept. 3.

The court released Klingberg five years before his 20-year sentence was due to end because of his failing health.

Described as the "most dangerous" spy in Israel's history,

Klingberg was found guilty of using his position as deputy director of the ultra-secret Ness Ziona biology institute near Tel Aviv to pass information about Israel's bacteriological warfare capabilities to Moscow.

Born in Poland, Klingberg served in the Red Army during World War II and, having completed his service, emigrated to Sweden and then to Israel.

According to his daughter Sylvia, quoted by the daily Haaretz, Klingberg was never a communist but was grateful to the Soviet Union for taking

him in during the war. The other members of his family who stayed behind in their native Warsaw all died at the hands of the Nazis.

The court imposed numerous restrictions on Klingberg's freedom, permitting him to leave his Tel Aviv home for only two hours per day and requiring that he be accompanied at all times by a person approved by the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service.

In addition, his passport will remain confiscated. Israel waited until 1993 before publicising details of

his sentence and the scientist spent the first 10 years of his sentence in solitary confinement.

The Israeli authorities had opposed repeated requests for parole by Klingberg, claiming the former scientist still holds top secret information that could threaten Israel's security.

But Klingberg's lawyers argued that he was infirm and no longer a danger to the security of the state and only wanted to finish his life with his daughter and granddaughter. Several months ago, Klingberg was granted parole of 36 hours per month.

## Israel warns of Hamas kidnap attempts

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli military warned Thursday that soldiers who hitchhike risk being kidnapped by the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas. Channel Two television reported.

The security services have "specific information" about attempts "within the next few days" to abduct several soldiers, the television station said. The Islamic Resistance

Movement (Hamas) is planning to kidnap soldiers to use as bargaining chips to win the release of Palestinian prisoners. 3,500 of whom are being held in Israeli prisons, the television said.

As a safety measure, patrols have been stepped up around places where soldiers usually hitchhike to get a ride home, especially for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year,

which begins Sunday night.

Special military and civilian units will monitor the usual hitchhiking areas, the television said.

The soldiers have been instructed not to accept rides unless the driver is alone. The soldiers were also told to speak with the driver first to determine whether he is suspicious or speaks Hebrew with an Arabic "accent," the television said.

Hamas threatened last week to avenge the killings last Thursday of two leaders of its military wing by Israeli troops near the West Bank city of Hebron.

The Palestinian Islamists have also called for vengeance for death of a Palestinian shot dead by an Israeli settler near the West Bank city of Ramallah.

## Polish tests of Israeli missiles scheduled for November

WARSAW (AP) — The first tests of Israeli NTD missiles for the Huzar helicopter on a Polish testing range will be held no later than November, a defence ministry spokesman said Friday.

Polish experts will watch the tests that will be held according to a Polish scenario. Captain Andrzej Adamczyk told the Associated Press.

He said that the tests should begin by November. After choosing the Israeli offer

in October, Poles have been pressing for tests of the prototype missile in Polish weather and environment conditions. If tests are satisfactory, Poland can withdraw from the deal.

Earlier this week, Defence Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz received a letter from his Israeli counterpart confirming that Israel wants to go ahead with tests.

The government has earmarked 43 million zloty (\$12 million) for

the Huzar project this year and the ministry set up two teams to supervise the sensitive issue of equipping the combat helicopter. Adamczyk said.

Following years of negotiating with several partners, Poland signed an agreement in October that awarded the \$800 million contract to Israel's Rafael and Elbit companies to equip Huzar, in line with NATO requirements. Poland rejected a similar offer from U.S. giant Boeing.

The contract has aroused concern in the West about lack of transparency of procurement procedures in Poland.

Under the deal, Rafael would supply the Huzar with anti-tank NTD missiles and Elbit would provide electronic integrating systems. Both components of the deal still required approval from the two governments.

But the Solidarity government, which took office shortly after the agreement was signed, criti-

cised the handling of the tenders by its ex-communist predecessors and demanded missile tests. It also decided to seek another tender for the integrating system.

A date has not been set for the tender, Adamczyk said. Poland is scheduled to join NATO in April as one of three former Warsaw Pact countries shifting to the Western military alliance, but must modernise some of its army hardware and training.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Carter calls for Sudan blast probe

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter has called for an investigation into whether a Sudanese factory destroyed by U.S. missiles last month actually manufactured possible chemical weapons materials. A technical team should visit Khartoum to inspect the plant and to take samples of soil and building materials, Carter said in a statement Thursday. "If the evidence shows that the Sudanese are guilty, they should be condemned for lying and for contributing to terrorist activities," Carter said. "Otherwise, we should admit our error and make amends to those who have suffered loss or injury." "The credibility of our nation in international circles is being adversely affected by these doubts," Carter said, noting that officials in Britain and Germany have questioned U.S. claims about the factory's purpose.

### Assad meets Iranian culture minister

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Assad received Iranian Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Atollah Mohajerani Thursday, the official SANA news agency reported. Their talks focused on "the situation in the region and the growing tension in Afghanistan and around that country and ensuing dangers," SANA said. Mohajerani also met earlier Thursday with Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam to discuss regional security issues. Their meeting covered "the goals of Israel's policy and relapses of stability and security in the region," the agency said. The two also discussed "the enormous harm done by relations between Turkey and Israel to Islamic nations, including Turkey itself," it said.

### Seven killed in central Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Seven people were killed and nine were wounded in continuing skirmishes in a village near Eldheer district of central Somalia, informed militia sources told AFP on Friday. The sources said that the fighting, between Abgal and Murusade sub-clans, took place on Thursday in a nomadic village 30 kilometres north of Eldheer but subsided on Friday without any formal ceasefire being reached. Supporters of the warring sides, who are also dominant in Mogadishu, confirmed the renewed fighting and have sent in more weapons and equipment, including battlewagons.

### Iranian cleric says Clinton a 'sex maniac'

TEHRAN (AFP) — A senior Iranian religious official on Friday branded U.S. President Bill Clinton a sadist and a sex maniac over the sex-and-lies affair involving Monica Lewinsky. "He is a sex maniac and everyone knows it... he is a sexual sadist who claims to lead the world," Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati told a crowd of several thousand Iranians attending Friday prayers at Tehran University. Jannati, also secretary of Iran's important Constitutional Council, called on President Mohammad Khatami to "denounce America" when he addresses the U.N. General Assembly on Monday. "It is the best place to denounce once again the American Great Satan and its policies in the world," he said.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 .....Cartoon ..... Postman Pat  
15:30 .....Clowning Around  
16:00 .....Drama ..... Neighbours  
16:30 .....Doc. .... Scandi Nature  
17:00 French Programme —  
"Faut Pas Revenir"  
18:00 .....Drama ..... Sea Quest  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 French Programme —  
"Le Cœur de Colomb"  
19:30 .....News headlines  
19:35 Quiz Show — You Bet  
Your Life  
19:55 .....Cinema. Cinema  
20:30 .....Prism  
21:10 .....Drama ..... Sirens  
22:40 .....News in English  
23:30 Feature film — Love,  
Mary  
23:59 .....Country Music  
00:30 .....End of T.X.

## PRAYER TIMES

03:59 .....Fajr  
05:17 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
11:29 .....Dhuhr  
14:59 .....Asr  
17:42 .....Maghreb  
19:00 .....Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes, and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.  
Amman .....18/30  
Aqaba .....25/36  
Deserts .....17/54  
Jordan Valley .....24/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 31 Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent. Aqaba 60 per cent.  
Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun .....26  
Jerash .....31  
Um Qays .....30  
Madaba .....30  
Petra .....32  
Dead Sea .....38

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim .....4855446

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## ARRIVALS

18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport)  
22:25 Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)

## DEPARTURES

18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport)  
22:25 Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:10 .....Tehran (RJ)  
07:30 .....Damascus (RJ)  
08:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
09:25 .....Beirut (RJ)  
09:30 .....Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
09:45 .....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:00 .....Colombo (RJ)  
14:55 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:00 .....Cairo (RJ)  
16:30 .....London (RJ)  
20:40 .....Madrid (RJ)  
21:55 .....Milan, Rome (RJ)  
22:30 .....Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)  
00:15 .....Paris (RJ)  
04:30 .....Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights  
05:05 London, Damascus (BA)  
12:00 .....Riyadh (SV)  
13:10 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)  
14:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
15:25 .....Dubai, Muscat (EK)  
17:40 .....Beirut (ME)  
18:00 .....Paris (AF)  
18:05 .....Frankfurt (LH)  
22:35 .....Cairo (MS)  
22:40 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
00:05 London, Damascus (BA)  
01:05 .....Belgrade (JU)  
02:00 .....Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)  
07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport)  
20:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Home  
Jordanian  
to discuss  
Government  
against H  
manitarian flight  
New Qatari ambas  
PUPPET SHOW  
EXHIBITIONS  
FESTIVAL



## Jordanian-Palestinian committee to discuss boosting trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee convenes today in Amman under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and Mahmoud Abbas, secretary general of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, to discuss boosting joint trade and economic relations.

In preparation for today's meeting, Jordanian and Palestinian officials met in Amman Thursday and reviewed the volume of bilateral trade, transport issues and future plans.

Mohammad Halaiah, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and Khaled Islam, economic affairs advisor to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, led their respective teams to the preparatory talks.

Discussion covered prospects for increasing the

volume of goods to be exchanged between the two sides as well as issues related to security, agriculture, transport and other matters.

The Jordanian side requested that the Palestinian National Authority facilitate issuing licences to Palestinian traders to import Jordanian agricultural and food products to the self-rule areas in accordance with an October 1997 trade agreement.

They also discussed the question of replacing the "back-to-back" trading system with a "point-to-point" system and increasing cement exports via the Prince Mohammad Bridge.

Jordan asked that the Palestinian side re-examine tariffs imposed on Jordanian products and permit the entry of refrigerated trucks and containers into the self-rule areas.

The two sides discussed the reconstruction of the King

Hussein Bridge, according to Halaiah, who said the Japanese government will finance this project. A Japanese delegation is due in Amman later this year to present the final designs for the new bridge.

Halaiah said Palestinian and Jordanian officials have reached an agreement on a mechanism to promote trade and increase the number of goods exempt from customs fees.

For his part, Islam expressed hope that the two sides would increase the volume of bilateral trade, noting that the Israelis have been hindering trade between Jordan and Palestine.

He added that he hoped the current level of trade, which amounts to JD12 million, would be doubled soon, noting that the PNA is keen on substituting Israeli goods with Jordanian products.

## Journalists say government faces challenge in reconciling information policy, press law

By Amy Henderson

AMMAN — The government's information policy outlined in Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh's policy statement to the Lower House of Parliament received a lukewarm response from media professionals yesterday.

"If the government is able to implement its statements and thoughts, we can have a constructive future," said Jordan Press Association President Seif Sherif. "But we think that amending the law is crucial. We can't leave a law like this to the will of people in office. If there are really good intentions, the law must be changed."

"Under the present law, journalists cannot feel at ease. Things have to be changed legally for us to feel secure," Sherif said.

The prime minister, during his statement, reiterated the government's stated position of a soft implementation of the country's new Press and Publications Law and said the government would be pursuing a "peaceful dialogue" with the entire press body — local, Arab and international press institutions. But the policy statement made no mention of further amendments to the law or of any intention to draft a

new piece of legislation.

The 1998 Press and Publications Law, endorsed by both houses of Parliament and made effective by Royal Decree last month, is the most restrictive legislation on the press ever drafted in the Kingdom. The law has endowed courts with the right to close down newspapers during the investigation and court proceedings of any case filed against a newspaper. The law was drafted under the former government, which many journalists said had drafted the law to suit its own specific objectives.

Tarawneh on Thursday said His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation required that efforts to develop the media be "stepped up in accordance with the age of instant communication and dynamic media, transparency, objectivity, openness and credibility."

"[Such a] media reflects upon the nation's achievements, its reality, its democracy and its political pluralism," the prime minister said.

Upon its appointment, the Tarawneh government promised a new "détente" in its relationship with the press, and has made several promising gestures.

Judeh recently said the government was working out a formula for a Royal Commission on the press to study press-related matters. Journalists hope that the outcome of a commission would be the creation of a neutral body to investigate complaints against and from the media before cases are moved to the courts. Judeh also said the government was entertaining a request to drop charges against newspapers filed under previous governments.

Last week, the former director of the Press and Publications Department was replaced by Iyad Qatan, a former columnist and human rights activist. Journalists said the decision to replace the former director, who they hold responsible for some of the law's most restrictive articles, was a "signal" of the government's seriousness in creating a more relaxed atmosphere.

However, many have said that "the law is the law" and the government is obliged by the Constitution to uphold it.

"There is a contradiction in what the government says," said a correspondent for a foreign Arabic daily. "There is a law, and the government cannot just selectively implement the law. To do otherwise is to undermine the rule of law."

Another journalist yesterday said a recent case filed against Al-Hadath Chief Editor Nidal Mansour was inconsistent with the government's prior statements.

Mansour yesterday told the Jordan Times that the Information Ministry filed a case against him for an article entitled "Our democracy and American democracy" published in the weekly on Aug. 20, before the new press law went into effect. The article referred generally to alleged corruption in the government and Parliament, but refrained from naming specific officials and deputies.

"This is a test to see how serious the government is about implementing good intentions and flexibility in dealing with the press and applying the law," Mansour said.

Judeh yesterday said he had only been made aware of the case after Mansour pointed it out to him and that he was still unaware of the full details, and therefore not prepared to comment.

The minister said that the government had considered the JPA's request to drop charges against newspapers, but that "99 per cent of the charges against newspapers are now before the judiciary,

which is independent."

"If we want to respect the judiciary, [the government] cannot just tell the judiciary to start dropping cases," he said. "We were very clear about this point from the beginning."

Sherif said that he had not been informed of the case, but that if such a case was pending, it would be a "very explosive" development.

Meanwhile, JPA sources yesterday said they will convene a special meeting today to discuss whether or not one of their board members had "normalised" relations with Israelis at a recent conference on democracy in Greece.

JPA sources told the Jordan Times that some members of the press organisation have alleged that Jamal Shawahin, chief editor of Al-Bilad weekly and a JPA board member, attended the conference knowing that there would be Israelis present.

Jordan's 13 professional associations are adamantly opposed to normalisation of ties with the Jewish state and include in their by-laws articles that prohibit their members from doing so on threat of expulsion from the syndicates to which they are legally bound to join before practising their professions.

## Government bans protest rallies against Hamas members' killings

By Tareq Ayyoub

BAQA'A CAMP — The government on Friday banned two rallies in the Kingdom's largest refugee camps to protest the killing of two Hamas activists in the West Bank by Israeli security agents on Sept. 10.

Mohammad Oweidah, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, which planned the rallies in Al-Baq'a and Al-Wihdat camps, said the government reversed its initial approval of the two processions.

Oweidah, a former member of Parliament, told the Jordan Times that Interior Minister Nayef Qadi gave the group "verbal" consent to hold the rallies but informed them later that the Cabinet recommended denying the permits.

"We told the minister that the rallies would be peaceful, but he said the government was afraid that disturbances might take place and felt it would be better to cancel them," Oweidah said. Qadi told the Jordan

Times that the ministry received no written request from the Brotherhood and that there was no approval granted to hold the rallies.

The minister said that during a meeting with Brotherhood leader Abdul Majed Thuneibat and Islamic Action Front Secretary General Abdul Latif Arabiyat last week, he informed them that the time was not "suitable" for such rallies. "We told them that holding such rallies might affect the security and stability of the country and cause some disturbances which we do not need at this time," Qadi said.

Oweidah said the rallies were aimed at showing support for Hamas and denouncing the killing of Emad and Adel Awadallah. Following the killing of the Awadallah brothers, Israel claimed that they were behind suicide bombings in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

On Friday, police were stationed at roads leading to the mosque where the Wih-

dat camp rally participants were to assemble, eyewitnesses said.

Police also watched prayers at Nablus Mosque in Baqa'a.

Brotherhood leaders addressed worshippers at both mosques and urged Hamas to avenge the killing of the two brothers, who were considered the top leaders of Hamas' military arm, the Izzedin Qassam Brigade.

They also called for jihad (holy war) against Israel to "liberate Jerusalem" and the Palestinian territories and urged the Palestinian National Authority to put an end to its security cooperation with Israel and to assist Hamas in its "war" against Israel.

The speeches were interrupted by cries from Brotherhood supporters such as "Revolution until victory," "Oh Jews, the army of Muhammad will return," and "God is great."

Following the prayers, worshippers dispersed peacefully.



CATCH OF THE DAY: Workers use nets at a fish farm in the Jordan Valley to catch fish for sale on the local market (Photo by Yusef 'Allan)

## Court drops death sentences against eight convicted of murder

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Criminal Court has dropped death sentences against eight people from the same family who were sentenced to death in November 1997 for bludgeoning a man and his son to death during a brawl in the Wadi Seer area in October 1993.

After the Court of Cassation ordered a retrial, the Criminal Court amended its previous ruling of premeditated murder to manslaughter against Ahmad Mohammad, 27, Ahmad Salim, 24, Yasser Mohammad, 20, Sa'id Mahmoud, 24, Eid Mohammad, 29, Mohammad Khalil, 60, Mahmoud Khalil, 55, and Mifid Khalil, 70. All were sentenced to 22-and-one-half years in prison with hard labour.

The eight were sentenced to death by the Criminal Court in October 1997 for the premeditated murder of Salim Salameh, 49, and his 20-year-old son, Jamil, on Oct. 20, 1993.

Six months later, the Court of Cassation overturned the verdict and returned the case to the Criminal Court for retrial because it said "not all eight defendants participated in the murder."

In April, the Criminal Court upheld its ruling. The case was referred to

the Court of Cassation a second time, and the nine-judge tribunal overturned the ruling once more. The case was returned to the Criminal Court, which was asked to amend the charges from premeditated murder to manslaughter.

According to court transcripts, the defendants had several quarrels with the victims and their family four months prior to the incident over a piece of land in the Iraq Al Amir area in Wadi Seer.

The Criminal Court stated that the eight defendants met on Oct. 19, one day before the incident, and planned to lure the two victims to a garage.

On the evening of the murder, the court maintained, the defendants asked the two victims to meet with them to discuss their feud.

"When the two victims arrived, the defendants surrounded them and beat them with rocks and wooden sticks until they died," the court said.

The court quoted defendant Mahmoud Khalil as testifying that his family decided to exact revenge from the victim's family because of the continuous fights, "and because he couldn't forgive them for the harm caused to his teeth by Jamil Salim in a previous fight."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Humanitarian flight to Bangladesh

AMMAN (Petra) — Upon directives from HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the Hashemite Charity Organisation Friday sent an aircraft loaded with medical and food stuff to Bangladesh, which has been hit by floods over the last two months.

### Queen to attend UNESCO ceremony

BONN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will attend a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation ceremony near Bonn later this month. The proceeds of the ceremony will go to needy children throughout the world.

### German bank opens regional office

AMMAN (J.T.) — The German Development Bank has opened a regional office at the premises of the German Technical Cooperation Centre in Shmeisani. The bank finances social, economic and industrial projects in Third World countries as well as projects to protect the environment and natural resources. In an address at the inauguration ceremony, Planning Minister Nabil Aramari expressed the government's appreciation of Germany's continued assistance to the Kingdom, particularly in water and infrastructure projects. Amman said a total of JD750 million in German aid has been awarded to Jordan since 1961.

### New Qatari ambassador arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Qatar's ambassador designate to Jordan, Sheikh Fahed Ben Jasssem Ben Abdullah Al Thani, arrived in Amman Thursday evening to take up his new post. Sheikh Fahed, who was met at the airport by senior Foreign Ministry officials, expressed determination to dedicate his efforts to serve the mutual interests of Jordan and Qatar. Sheikh Fahed succeeds Nasser Ben Abdul Aziz Al Nasser, who was transferred to New York to serve as Qatar's permanent ambassador to the U.N.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

**PUPPET SHOW**  
\* Children's puppet show "Said wal Bolbol" (Said and the Bird) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Sunday Sept. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

**TUNISIAN FILM FESTIVAL**  
\* "Azzah" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

**EXHIBITIONS**  
\* Display of Bani Hamida and Jordan River Designs products (rugs, cushions, wall-hangings, and quilts) at the Jordan River Designs showroom, until Sept. 30 (Tel. 4613081).

\* Photography exhibition entitled "Les Cite's d'Artistes a Paris" at the premises of the Association of the Jordanian Plastic Artists, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 30.

\* Paintings by Iraqi artists Ismail Sheikhly, Suzanne Sheikhly, and Khalid Qassab entitled "Pioneers of the Fifties" at Orfalt Art Gallery, Umm Utheina, until Sept. 21 (Tel. 5526932).

\* Paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.

## Fire at Al Ra'i newspaper under investigation

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A special committee is investigating the cause of a fire that broke out at a paper warehouse on the premises of Al Ra'i newspaper on Thursday.

The committee is expected to report on the cause of fire, which destroyed tonnes of printing paper.

The fire started at around 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. Staff at Al Ra'i saw smoke coming out of the windows of a 250-metre paper storeroom and alerted the Civil Defence Department.

It took CDD firefighters in addition to Al Ra'i employees

and Amman Greater Municipality employees almost three hours to extinguish the blaze.

The fire destroyed a six-metre area where tonnes of commercial paper were stacked. The blaze also damaged two rooms that were located behind the storage room.

Five Al Ra'i employees were hospitalised for smoke inhalation. They were all discharged later Thursday from the hospital.

Al Ra'i employees and Amman Greater Municipality employees helped in removing raw material and paper from the burning warehouse.

His Majesty King Hussein,

who is currently receiving treatment at the Mayo Clinic in the U.S., called the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Press Foundation, Abdul Salam Tarawneh, to inquire about the fire. The King also called the CDD to check on the progress of the firefighting operation.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, also called Tarawneh and was in constant contact with the CDD operation room following up on the operation.

Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Interior Minister Nayef Qadi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Administrative Development Bassam Emoush and Information Minister Nasser Judeh supervised the operation.

Amman Governor Tal'at Nayayseh, Amman Mayor Nidal Hadid and other officials were also on the scene.

The president of the Jordan Press Association and director general of Al-Dustour Arabic daily, Seif Sharif, and Al-Dustour Editor-in-Chief Nabil Sharif also visited the premises and offered Al-Dustour's for use by Al Ra'i.

Several ministers, former ministers and other government officials called Tarawneh to check on the newspaper and its employees.

## Lung, breast cancer most prevalent in Jordan — report

By Suha Ma'ayeh

AMMAN — Statistics from Jordan's Cancer Registry revealed that in 1996, lung and bladder cancer as well as leukaemia were the most prevalent forms of the disease in males, while breast and colon-rectal cancer and leukaemia were hit females the most.

Of the 3,302 new cancer cases (1,704 males and 1,598 females, including children) registered in 1996, 198 proved fatal by the end of 1997.

The registry, established at the Health Ministry in 1996, recorded that the incidence rate of leukaemia among children below 10 was the highest, with 53 male cases and 33 female cases, followed by brain tumours, 21 and 15, respectively.

According to registry statistics, the 1996 incidence rate of all cancers among Jordanians was 74.3 cases per 100,000 persons.

Divided according to sex, the incidence rate calculated to 73.5 cases for males and 75.3 cases for females per 100,000.

Figures showed that lung cancer among males was the most common form of the disease, with 185 reported cases, or 10.8 per cent of the total number of male cases. Bladder cancer and leukaemia followed with 168 (9.8 per cent) and 158 cases (9.3 per cent).

Of the 1,598 females registered, 455 were diagnosed as having breast cancer. Breast cancer comprised 28.5 per cent of the cancer cases among females.

Colon-rectal cancer and leukaemia among females numbered 111 and 109 cases.

Other types of cancer recorded among males were colon/rectal, 123, skin, 115, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, 102, and prostate, 89.

Males were also hit by brain cancer, 88 cases, stomach cancer, 79, and cancer of the larynx, 61.

Among women, skin cancer, 82 cases, brain tumours, 81, thyroid, 77, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, 74, were reported.

The types with the lowest incidence among women were uterine, 70 cases, Hodgkin lymphoma, 54, and ovarian, 53, cancer.

The Cancer Registry compared its figures with those of the U.S., a developed country, and Egypt, a developing country, to determine where Jordan stands.

The rate of incidence of cancer in the U.S. was 300 per 100,000 people compared to 74.3 per 100,000 in Jordan.

The incidence of leukaemia among males and females in Egypt was 4.9 per cent and 2.9 per cent, respectively, while in the U.S. it was 2.6 per cent and

2.2 per cent. In Jordan, the leukaemia incidence rate was nearly triple that of the U.S., with 9.3 per cent in males and 6.8 per cent in females.

The incidence rate of skin cancer in Jordan reached 6.7 per cent among males and 5.1 per cent among females, compared to 2.1 per cent and 1.4 per cent in Egypt and 2.7 per cent and 2.6 per cent in U.S.

Brain tumours diagnosed in both males and females in Jordan (5.2 per cent and 5.1 per cent) were also higher than the corresponding incidence in American males and females (1.5 per cent and 1.4 per cent).

Meanwhile, lung cancer in Jordan, estimated at 10.8 per cent among males, is less prevalent than it is in the U.S., which reported an incidence rate of 15.3 per cent. Egypt registered 2.2 per cent.

The registry also showed that 11.2 per cent of all cancer cases occurred before the age of 20, while 34.9 per cent occurred after the age of 60.

The Cancer Registry collects data from all health sectors in the country. It also analyses data and removes duplicated records.

In its continuous reporting system, the registry also follows up on all the reported cases of cancer across the Kingdom.

## Man executed for botched 'honour' killing

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — A 24-year-old man who murdered his wife on suspicion that she was "behaving immorally" was hanged Thursday at dawn, officials said Friday.

Mohammad Salman, a soldier, confessed to interrogators that he strangled his wife on suspicion that she was involved in an illicit relationship. No dates were provided by officials for the murder or the sentencing.

Salman was quoted minutes before his execution as saying that "I killed my wife but she was innocent. I was ignorant. I urge my relatives to cleanse my wife's reputation. God bless her soul."

Human rights groups are concerned that crimes of honour continue to be a problem in Jordan.

According to officials, out of 25 women killed in the Kingdom last year in "hon-

our crimes," investigations proved that 95 per cent of them were innocent of any immoral allegations by their relatives.

Salman, who was executed at Swaga Prison, asked to see two of his cousins before he was hanged.

Salman died instantly, but it took 15 minutes for all bodily functions to cease, according to one official who attended the execution.

The hanging was attended by centre Director Sa'id Ajrami, the prosecutor general, the centre's mufti, pathologist Awad Tarawneh and other officials.

Thursday's execution was the second to be carried out in the Kingdom this year. On Aug. 14, a 35-year-old man was put to death after he was found guilty of murdering a couple and their son in Amman in 1997.

Last year, 11 people were executed in the Kingdom for various crimes.

of six Iranian diplomats photo)

## BRIEF

### last probe

ident Jimmy Carter has called Sudanese leader, who is reportedly manufacturing possible demand for oil and building up military forces. Carter said the United States should be concerned about the possibility of a new arms race in the Middle East, and he expressed his concern about the possibility of a new arms race in the Middle East.

### future minister

President of the United States, James M. Carter, said that a new approach should be taken in the region of the Middle East, and he expressed his concern about the possibility of a new arms race in the Middle East.

### Somalia

in people's lives. The United Nations has been working to bring about a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Somalia, and it has been working to bring about a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Somalia.

### tion a "sex maniac"

under the name of a "sex maniac" living in a small town in the United States. The man was accused of committing a series of sexual offenses, and he was being held in custody.

18:00  
19:00  
22:25

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian: Riyadh 05:45, Amman 10:45, Beirut 11:00, Cairo 11:40, Damascus 12:00, Baghdad 12:15, London 13:05, Frankfurt 13:45, Rome 20:05, Athens 20:20, Istanbul 20:25, Ankara 23:30, Tehran 05:30.

Other Flights:  
06:35 Damascus, London  
13:30 Amman, Beirut  
14:00 Amman, Beirut  
14:50 Amman, Beirut  
18:00 Amman, Beirut  
19:00 Amman, Beirut  
23:40 Amman, Beirut  
02:10 Amman, Beirut  
03:00 Amman, Beirut

Royal Wings (RW):  
07:00 Amman, Beirut  
08:30 Amman, Beirut  
20:30 Amman, Beirut







Democrats before election

The governing Social opposition both showed parties in an opinion poll of Sweden's general election between Monday and Tuesday. Svenska Dagbladet's Social Democratic Party increased its lead from 1.2 points to 1.5. The conservative center-right party led by Prime Minister Carl Bildt had 2,329 people, or 1.6 per cent, a day earlier. The Social Democrats had 12.7 per cent, the third-largest party in the 1994 election. The Social Democrats' share of the vote in the 1994 election was 11.4 per cent, while the center-right party won 12.1 per cent. No party is expected to seek an alliance.

rules in favour patients

neer patients who sued the district court when a judge ruled against them. Babcock & Wilcox Co., a nuclear engineering firm, was awarded \$1.5 million in damages. The court ruled that the company had not provided adequate warnings and that the plaintiffs had been misled. The court also found that the company had violated safety regulations. The plaintiffs are now seeking a new trial.

bars bartering employment

A French town has been hit by a wave of unemployment. The town of Toulon, in the south of France, has a high unemployment rate. Many people are struggling to find work. The local government is trying to create jobs, but it is facing a budget crisis. The situation is expected to worsen if the economy does not improve.

safe for now jos volcano

Volcano on the Galapagos Islands made rainforest communities dangerous. The volcano, known as Santa Ana, has been active for several days. It has caused a lot of damage to the surrounding area. The local population is being evacuated. The government is trying to control the situation, but it is facing a lot of difficulties.

ed during burglary ne home

old man working for the U.S. was killed in the northern part of the country. The man was working for the U.S. government. He was killed during a burglary. The police are trying to find the person who did it. The man's family is very sad.

# World News

## New technique found for animal-to-human transplants

WASHINGTON (R) — Researchers said Thursday they had found a new way to help the human body accept transplants of animal organs and said the approach might also work in treating certain diseases like rheumatoid arthritis. They said they had found a way to make the body stop producing the cells that attack and reject foreign bodies. Writing in the journal Science, John Iacomini and colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston said they had genetically engineered mouse bone marrow cells to allow the mice to tolerate transplants of pig tissue. They said the mice stopped producing antibodies that flag the pig cells for attack by the immune system, and thus could accept transplants from pigs. What Iacomini's team did was find the compound that is responsible for the antibodies. It is known as alpha-Gal, and is made by an enzyme controlled by a gene known as aGT. Most mammals, including pigs and mice, produce this protein. But primates such as humans and apes do not. This is one reason why human bodies reject pig organs — the a-Gal is completely foreign. But if the body of a human transplant patient did produce a-Gal, perhaps it would tolerate a pig organ, Iacomini's team surmised. They bred mice that do not produce a-Gal, and added in the a-GT gene controlling production of

pig a-Gal. The mice produced pig a-Gal and tolerated pig tissue transplants. Other approaches have temporarily stopped the production of the immune cells by genetically engineering a pig organ to "look" human, but this is the first time genetic engineering has succeeded in shutting down the immune response at such a basic level, Iacomini's group said. There is a huge shortage of human organs for transplants. Pigs are seen as logical candidates for animal-to-human transplants. They are about the same size as humans and have similar biology. But there are problems. Not only does the human body reject pig organs as foreign, but there are fears that unknown pig viruses carried in the organ tissue could infect humans. Most researchers in the United States, as well as in Britain, are holding off on making any such transplants until they can establish that it is safe. Iacomini's team said their technique could have other uses. "Similar approaches may also be applicable to induction of tolerance in other disorders, including autoimmune diseases," they wrote. In autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, the body's immune system mistakenly attacks normal healthy cells such as cartilage in the joints, eventually destroying it. Turning off this immune attack could help people with such diseases.



An Indonesian demonstrator raises his arms in the air in front of a cordon of anti-riot policemen barring the entrance to the attorney general's office in Jakarta. Some 100 people rallied amidst mounting clamours of graft investigation on former President Suharto to be expanded to cover all ministers under him (AFP photo)

## Indonesian group demands graft investigation of Suharto officials

JAKARTA (AFP) — A group of 100 protesters Friday became the latest to join a mounting clamour for the graft investigation into former Indonesian President Suharto to be expanded to cover all ministers who served under him. Some 100 people from the People's Solidarity for the Upholding of Justice, protested outside the attorney general's office here to demand the expansion of the graft probe. "All state officials who were ministers under Suharto or who are now still occupying positions, should have their wealth investigated," said the protest coordinator who identified himself as Harahap. Harahap was reading a group statement as some 30 police barred them entry to the attorney general's compound at a busy intersection in south Jakarta. Several representatives were allowed to meet with officials inside to deliver the group statement, and the protesters later left the premises peacefully. No incidents were reported. Indonesian President B.J. Habibie, himself a former Suharto minister, last week set up a team headed by Attorney General Andi Mohammad Ghalib to investigate the wealth of Suharto who stepped down in May. Indonesian shares prices dived 4.8 per cent, or 13,804 points, to close Friday at 271,671 points on renewed concerns an

expansion of the Suharto wealth probe would spread to include Habibie and trigger new political chaos, dealers said. At the time of his fall, Suharto was dogged by accusations of corruption and cronyism amid widespread anger over the country's economic crisis. He allegedly amassed billions of dollars during his 32-year iron-fisted rule — charges which he sought to deny on a nationwide broadcast on Sept. 6 when he said he did not have a "single cent" abroad. Forbes magazine in the United States estimated in July he was worth \$4 billion. "Attorney general, if you are not capable, resign!" said one placard carried by the protesters. Other posters read: "The (Suharto) New Order regime is the cause of the economic crisis." "The people demand that all the wealth of New Order officials be investigated," and "Set up an independent team to investigate the wealth of Suharto and his cronies." "The attacks on Suharto himself, are the mere results of engineering by corrupt and nepotistic individuals in power to shift attention away from themselves," Harahap said without elaborating. He said the priority of the investigation should be ministers in the economic and finance sector, which he said were "areas where most corruption, collusion and nepotism are taking

place." He cited the sectors of mining, transport, manpower, public works, trade and industry and the National Development Planning and the Technology Research and Development Agency that was formerly under Habibie. Calls for a wider corruption probe to include the Suharto officials, including Habibie, has been growing since Suharto made his Sept. 6 televised statement. They were aired by MPs, current and former ministers, including several who had once served under Suharto, academics and human rights and pro-democracy activists. They said an expanded investigation would lend credence to the government's drive to fight corruption and help restore confidence in the country and its government. Meanwhile Ghalib was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying Friday while on a visit to Banda Aceh in the Sumatran province of Aceh, that an investigation into government officials may take place after the probe on Suharto. "We will see later, after the investigation on Suharto," Ghalib said. "In any investigation, there is always a need to question other people, and we will question them," he added.

## Albanian parliament strips Berisha of immunity

TIRANA (AFP) — The Albanian parliament Friday voted to lift the parliamentary immunity of opposition leader Sali Berisha, paving the way for his arrest and prosecution on charges of leading a coup bid. Of 113 deputies present at the session, 108 voted for the decision to lift Berisha's parliamentary immunity. Nikoll Lesi, chairman of the Albanian assembly commission, said, adding that five votes were invalid. The prosecutor-general, Arben Rakipi, could now bring charges against Berisha and issue an arrest warrant, despite strong pressure by the international community and the risk of creating new tensions in Albania. But he could also decide to bring charges while leaving Berisha free pending trial, a parliamentary sources said. Charges of fomenting an uprising in Albania carry a maximum penalty of life in prison or the death penalty. Capital punishment, however, has not been applied since 1994 as Albania

wants to adapt its laws to European Council standards. The Albanian daily Gazeta Shqiptare reported that Prime Minister Fatos Nano was hesitant about ahead with his pledge to arrest and prosecute Berisha due to strong international pressure. Under the headline "Nano say no" the newspaper said: "International pressure, rising tension in the country and the danger of making the former president a martyr of the Democratic Party are behind the Albanian leadership's hesitancy to arrest (Berisha)." Western diplomatic sources confirmed that strong pressure was being applied on both sides to find a political solution to the crisis. The parliamentary decision came as some 4,000 supporters of the former president gathered in the capital's central square to await the ruling. Heavily-armed units from the army meanwhile deployed throughout the city to ward off any violence. Many were posi-

tioned on rooftops while others controlled access to the capital. A defiant Berisha earlier called for a national uprising against the regime, telling Albanians they had to be ready to make "the supreme sacrifice." "Be ready to make the supreme sacrifice," said the former president before a crowd of about 3,000 supporters gathered in front of his Democratic Party headquarters. In a statement to reporters, he added that Albanians must be willing to die to get rid of the "Fatos Nano clique." "I am a resistance fighter. We don't bargain with people who make false accusations about crimes against humanity," he said before leading his supporters in another protest march. Rioting Sunday and Monday following the killing of Berisha's ally, deputy Azem Hajdari, left four people dead and about 80 injured. Opposition supporters have since then been holding daily marches demanding that Nano step down.

## Malaysia's Anwar tells Mahathir to step down

KUALA TERENGGANU, Malaysia (AFP) — Ousted deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim called on Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad to step down Friday and said his reform movement if he were arrested. "Mahathir should resign as prime minister. I officially ask Dr. Mahathir to step down," Anwar told a cheering crowd of about 10,000 in Kuala Lumpur, some five kilometres south of the east coast city of Kuala Terengganu. Speaking after Friday prayers, the former finance minister told the crowd assembled at the Tengku Tengah Zaharah mosque that Mahathir would have to "bear the consequences" if he remained in power after 17 years. "I know Mahathir. There was no-one closer to Mahathir than me. I met him every morning. I guarantee he will not step down. He will only step down when the people demand reforms," he said.

"If I am arrested, my wife Wan Azizah will take over," said Anwar, who invited his wife up to the stage. "She's ready to carry on with the reforms." Anwar accused Mahathir of harassing his family and friends with the detentions of a brother, a speech writer and two private secretaries. "Tomorrow, people will be angry with you. You are already 73 years old. I can forgive you and your friends but the people cannot." "I appeal to you to respect the law. If you don't want to listen, you will have to bear the consequences. A prime minister who is fair will be supported but a prime minister who is cruel will be opposed," he added. Anwar, who is 51 years old, was speaking on the latest leg of a national tour which was to move later Friday to the neighbouring state of Kelantan, the only state controlled by the opposition Islamic party. Mahathir fired his former protégé on Sept. 2 amid police allegations ranging

from sexual misconduct to sedition. Anwar says the allegations are all part of a high-level conspiracy to bring him down. "The reason why I was dismissed and expelled from the party was because they were afraid that I would make a challenge, so they killed my political career." "I know a lot of government secrets," Anwar said. "I want to say to Mahathir that if he's really concerned with moral issues, he should look at his children and all their wealth as well as all the rich people." Anwar specifically mentioned business man Daim Zainuddin, a former finance minister and close ally of Mahathir who was brought into the cabinet in June. "Check how much money he has," he said. "There are people who are afraid that all the dirty tricks will come to an end if Anwar is elected. Believe me, they're afraid so they want to destroy my political career."

## Drug motive probed after 18 Mexicans massacred

ENSENADA, Mexico (R) — Gunmen lined up 19 people including six children and a baby against a wall and mowed them down after dragging them from their beds at a ranch near the U.S. border early Thursday, officials said. Investigators immediately suspected a drug connection as the area is a major corridor for smuggling cocaine into the United States. The killings took place near the port and tourist city of Ensenada, about an hour's drive south of the border linking San Diego in California and Tijuana in the Mexican state Baja California. One man survived the shootings but he was in critical condition, officials said. A 15-year-old girl escaped death by hiding under a bed, San Diego radio station KOGO said. "Because of the way they were executed and the type of arms used this appears to be organised crime," Baja California state Attorney General Marco Antonio de la Fuente told a news conference. The government news agency Notimex, citing an interview with de la Fuente, said the surviving adult, Fermin Castro, 35, grew

marijuana for the Arellano Felix drug cartel, a notoriously violent Tijuana-based Arellano Felix drug gang. Radio Red said 240 people have been gunned down in Tijuana so far this year. "It's obvious where this kind of violence comes from," Eugenio Carrillo, medical director for the Red Cross in Ensenada, told Reuters. "Of course it's drugs." Neighbours said the extended family — three households of the surnames Castro, Jaime and Tovar — operated rodeos and nightclubs throughout Mexico. The ranch's three-house complex, landscaped with palm trees and bougainvillea, includes a stable with more than a dozen horses. Cows grazed in nearby pastures. "They were a very nice family. They seemed to be a hard-working family," Armando Contreras, a construction worker who knew the family for eight years, told Reuters. Asked if he thought the tragedy was tied to drugs, Contreras shook his head and said "No." Some local media reports suggested a land dispute may have sparked the murders.

## Basque rebel ceasefire begins in Spain

MADRID (R) — Basque separatist guerrillas put a halt to more than three decades of violence with a ceasefire that began Friday, a move greeted with some scepticism by the Spanish government. The ETA began an "indefinite and total" ceasefire Friday, after announcing they would stop violence and try to find a political solution to the violence that has wracked the province and claimed 800 lives in 30 years. The ceasefire, apparently modelled on the IRA's truce in Northern Ireland, is the third to be implemented by the rebel group but the first without a cut-off date. The last ETA ceasefire in mid-1996 held for only one week.

Masked and hooded ETA members were shown on British BBC television reading a four-page communiqué to announce the truce, which meant the suspension of all attacks by the rebels. But ETA left no doubt that its main goal was still to create an independent state in the Basque regions of northern Spain and southern France. The group also said it would not give up its arms — a crucial condition set by the government before it would start peace negotiations — saying they must be retained in case members needed to defend themselves. The ceasefire was greeted cautiously by the Spanish government, which called on the sepa-

ratists to back up their actions with words. Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, in a speech during a state visit to Peru Thursday, cautioned against over-optimism at the announcement, saying ETA had called ceasefires before but the killing had not stopped. "There have been truces, negotiations. But what we have never seen is that ETA has listened to the clamour for peace from citizens within the Basque country and outside it," said Aznar, who has spearheaded a crackdown on the guerrilla group since taking office in mid-1996. Although his cautious reaction was echoed by other government ministers, many Basque

politicians welcomed the ceasefire and said it was the first step towards peace. Basque regional president Jose Antonio Ardanza called the truce a "historic milestone" and urged all political parties to work together to bring about peace. Xavier Arzallus, president of the moderate Basque Nationalist Party, said the ceasefire was a very important step. "Now it depends on us, the political and social forces, to take important and positive steps... it's our responsibility to ensure that this initiative ends with a definitive solution," he said. Politicians and analysts said the decision by ETA to implement a ceasefire was a sign that

the group had become increasingly isolated and needed to move toward political dialogue if it wanted to survive. The group's legal political arm, Herri Batasuna, spearheaded last weekend calling for multi-lateral peace talks including ETA. Herri Batasuna welcomed the ceasefire but said peace had not yet arrived in the Basque region. A party spokesman justified the comments by saying there were still ETA prisoners in Spanish and French prisons, still a paramilitary Civil Guard presence in the Basque country and a government policy of "pressure" in the region.



## Jordan Times

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## Take courage

PRIME MINISTER Fayez Tarawneh's policy statement to Parliament Thursday was candid and straightforward. From the onset, the prime minister stated that he and his cabinet colleagues have no magic wand to solve all the country's problems. Instead he called on every citizen to shoulder his/her responsibility in facing the challenges. He said that realism, transparency and honesty would characterise the government's policies ranging from international and regional affairs to economic and social concerns. Sound and fair inter-Arab relations, the prime minister pointed out, will be the foundation of the Kingdom's foreign policy.

Although the policy statement did not include concrete ideas and plans to address the country's domestic problems, the prime minister's promise of continuous dialogue with all sectors of society is a welcome pledge.

The arenas requiring immediate attention have been the subject of the ongoing dialogue between HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and these very same sectors. A courageous frontal assault on the problems that we face might at first stun the country, but the public would be won over if it began to see tangible results.

Unemployment and poverty are truly formidable problems that require the full cooperation of all segments of society in order to effectively tackle these grave ills. But foremost they require thorough research to identify their true magnitude so that appropriate measures can be formulated to combat them.

Programmes of action on how to pull the national economy up from its present downward course, the reaffirmation of our faith and confidence in privatisation and the consolidation of the positive attributes of free market economy as the basis for battling the current recession are all enormous tasks. Prioritising spending, for example, is an issue that needs a great deal of research before we identify the areas which can do with less funds and those that need more.

In his policy statement, the prime minister noted that the accumulation of negative features and imbalances in the country's economic, social and administrative structures have contributed to the current state of affairs. In this respect, additional and direct information on where the country may have gone wrong in the past is essential so that the public may also join in the efforts to deal with existing failings.

It is unfortunate that any meaningful reference to the environment was missing in the policy statement despite the fact that pollution and environmental threats are substantial. It is not only water that matters when it comes to the preservation and protection of the country's ecosystem but a variety of other related issues that appear to have escaped the attention of the authorities or simply figured less prominently on the government agenda.

Still, what matters most is how the new government intends to translate its ideas into actions, and do so with a much needed sense of urgency.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Mahmoud Rimawi criticised the United Nations for its decision to halt the Iraq sanctions reviews until Iraq reconsiders its decision to halt cooperation with the U.N. The writer said the resolution was unfair in linking Iraqi cooperation with the UNSCOM and reviewing the sanctions. The same resolution asked U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to review the Iraq file personally and write a report on it, which is something Iraq has wanted for a long time, said Rimawi. France and Russia voted for the resolution for the latter reason, said Rimawi. The resolution gives Annan the power he had earlier this year when he conducted the famous agreement with Iraq, said Rimawi. The writer said the Security Council resolution serves Iraq, because it gives them the chance to cooperate with UNSCOM as well as the U.N. chief.

Al Ra'i in its editorial discussed the peace process and the American attempts to save it. The paper lashed out at the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his headline policy. Netanyahu wants to destroy the peace process, because he believes that the Oslo Accords are a big loss for Israel, claimed the paper. Netanyahu wants to win the next elections by any means, even at the price of peace, said the paper. The paper called on the different parties to the peace process to stand against Netanyahu's policy, because leaving Netanyahu to go ahead with his radical policies will endanger the entire region. The paper also urged the United States, the European Union and the United Nations to make all possible efforts to save what is left from the dying peace.

## Jordanian Perspective

# A panorama of tragedy killing peace

Dr. Musa Keilani

A FEW DAYS ago in Amman Hamas celebrated the "martyrdom" of two of its leaders in Hebron.

Thousands of young Palestinian men chanted their 'jihad songs' near the University of Jordan, while Mishaal, Nazzal, Ghousheh and Abu Marzouq gave their sermons, vowing revenge against Israel. The Iranian ambassador and others attending the occasion were surprised by the multitudes and throngs of Hamas sympathisers as well as the highly pitched resolve to glorify their fighting squads. That raised the question: who is benefiting from this miserable panorama of daily events? Jewish settlers open fire at will at Palestinian schoolboys, killing one and seriously wounding another. A group of settlers try to create a fait accompli by building camps on Jabal Abu Ghneim. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promises settlers they will never be asked to leave their colonies in the West Bank. The Israeli government announces plans to expand settlements in "Judea and Samaria." The Arab League calls for international sanctions to pressure Israel into respecting Arab and Palestinian rights. U.S. mediator Dennis Ross says there is some "progress" in his efforts to narrow the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians, but major issues remain unresolved in the quest for peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile, his boss in Washington is mired in an unprecedented sex-and-lies scandal that threatens to bring him down.

Here in Jordan, we live in perpetual tension that Palestinian fury against their occupiers will lead to more violence and bloodshed which could spill over the border and upset the delicate balance we have precariously managed to create for ourselves, with the clear realisation that the state of affairs here can be consolidated only if the

Israelis and Palestinians make real peace. And, for many, it is business as usual in the Middle East five years after the much-praised Oslo agreements designed to heal the wounds of the region so that Arabs and Israelis can live together. But the region today is marked with tension and apprehension. From an external vantage point, it is all superficial and resembles a well-written and well-orchestrated play. But not so for the Palestinian people; they are living the agonies and suffering of lost opportunities with little hope that those loud voices that reaffirm support for their cause will actually metamorphose into deeds that will realise their hopes for freedom and a dignified life. What we saw and heard from Cairo on Thursday in terms of Arab support for the Palestinian cause and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's appeal for backing in his proposed move to declare an independent state in May 1999 regardless of the outcome of the Oslo process, was simple rhetoric that means very little when it comes to telling Israel that the Arab World stands together in a concerted drive to resolve the Palestinian problem once and for all. The only sign that gave us some hope was the television and photo images of Arafat being helped to climb a step by Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the Arab League, and more importantly, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa. Indeed it might have been a simple human gesture on the part of Sharaa, but then, knowing as we do the workings of the Syrian mind, we do see it as a positive sign that Syria might after all be coming to terms with the realities of the Oslo agreement regardless of whether Damascus liked the idea of the Palestinians going it alone with the Israelis.

We have indeed been looking for signs from Damascus

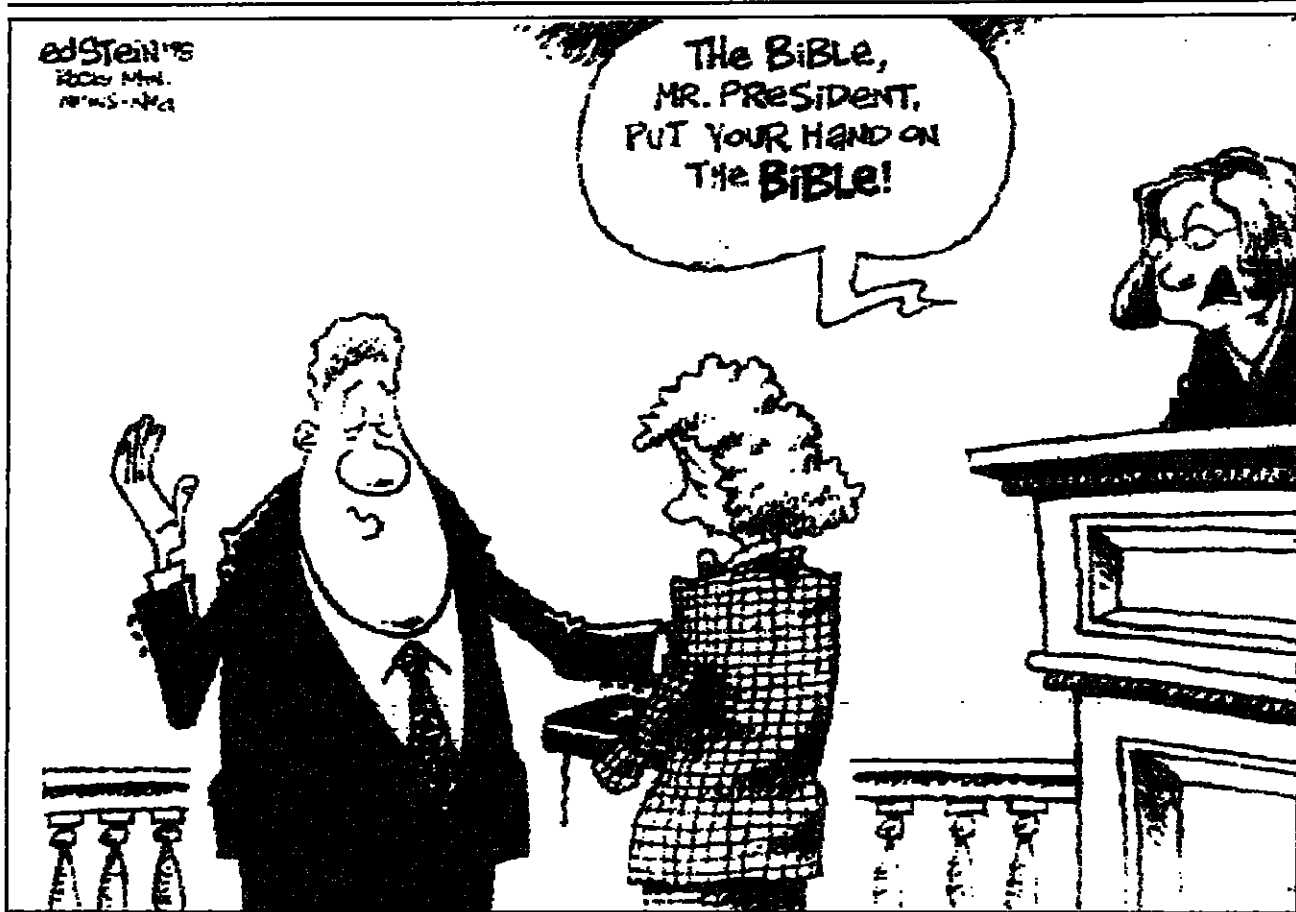
in recent days that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad might after all be ready to live with not only the Oslo agreements, but also the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty of 1994, — perhaps the two keys to lifting the logjam in efforts for a concerted Arab strategy to confront the Israeli intransigence.

But those signals have not materialised, at least not yet. If anything, Syria might indeed be contemplating how best to hit back at Jordan for its decision to join Turkey in military training missions.

But, Sharaa's gesture to help Arafat climb a difficult step, also indicates a Syrian willingness to appreciate that Arafat is indeed in a very difficult situation and can do without Damascus messing it up further.

That, however, should not take us away from the focal point of the conflict and the reasons that prompt us to reach for and cling to straws such as Sharaa's arm helping Arafat. What we, both Arabs and Israelis, risk today is another explosion of violence in the region as a result of seething Palestinian frustration. That could explain why thousands of young university Palestinians joined Hamas last Tuesday echoing the same commitment as Mishaal, vowing to fight, along with Hizbollah, the Israeli occupation for ever.

That frustration might not have as much to do with the stalled 13 per cent withdrawal plan as with the bitter reality that five years after the historic occasion when the Palestinians and Israelis signed their first ever agreement, Palestinian hopes for freedom and dignity have actually been set back rather than advanced. This anti-peace Netanyahu policy came as a God-sent gift to Hamas, Saddam, Assad and Hizbollah.



## View from the East

# Lessons from history

The writer is a Palestinian journalist living in Jerusalem. He is the director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al Quds University. He will be contributing his column every Thursday-Friday to the Jordan Times.

By Daoud Kuttab

ONE OF THE least understood aspects of living under occupation is the nature of the relationship between the occupier and the occupied. A foreign military occupation is like no other repressive rule. There is absolutely no limit as to what the occupier can and will do. The feelings and lives of the occupied are not part of the natural considerations of those in power. The dynamics of a government being responsive to its citizens who ultimately decide on this government's political fate, don't apply in the case of a country occupying another people against their will.

As a journalist I have often thought about this issue. In a normal setting, journalists write about an issue of public interest. The issue becomes of public concern, governments who are chosen by the people are aware of public opinion and try in one way or another to address that concern. Obviously in repressive societies the system doesn't work like that. But even in such repressive regimes civil government made up of the same nationality as the citizens under its rule have limits as to what they will allow to happen to their citizens.

In the case of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, which includes the 2.6 million living in Gaza and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) the situation is unique. Israeli rulers from a private soldier to the Israeli minister of defence have little interest in the lives of Palestinians under their rule. We see that from the way they deal with Palestinians at checkpoints to military orders signed by the minister. The Israeli rulers don't meet Palestinians in the supermarket, don't go to school with them, and most importantly, Palestinians don't vote for the Israeli parliament or for the Prime Minister — ultimately, why should Netanyahu and his government care, when Palestinians don't cast the vote which determines whether they stay or not? From their point of view, what Israel

does or doesn't do to Palestinians is entirely up to it and its benevolence.

When normal countries face security threats from within or from without they take special precautions both on the intelligence level as well as in the streets. But no matter how serious and dangerous the threat is, normal governments do not carry out widespread restrictions on their own people. They take special care not to interrupt normal life. In countries that are not military dictatorships, political leaders refuse to allow the security people to run havoc into the country even if it is done in the name of national security.

Last week, after Israel assassinated two Palestinian Islamic militants the security apparatus acted with impunity towards the Palestinian people. More than two million people were literally locked up in one large prison.

Workers were barred from going to work in Jerusalem and in Israel. Families were not allowed to travel into or through Israel. Palestinians from the West Bank who found themselves in Gaza when the closure was announced, were told they had to wait four more days until a special bus was organised to take them home. Travellers coming through the Rafah crossing from Egypt were denied entry through Israel to the West Bank. Students, mothers, business people, taxi drivers, lovers, doctors, engineers etc. were not allowed to travel to Jerusalem or into or through Israel.

Wide ranging repressive decisions like closures, violate the Geneva Convention which considers collective punishment illegal according to international treaties. In addition, deciding to implement measures such as closures, reflect more and more the apartheid-like discriminatory policy of the state of Israel. When Israelis are killed, as in the Hebron incident two weeks ago, all Palestinians in Hebron are punished by being placed under a curfew. This is explained as a policy of deterrence: making Palestinians pay a high price for the actions of their fellow nationals, so the theory goes, will influence militants not to carry out any more acts of violence. When Palestinians are killed, as happened last week, a closure is imposed in order to prevent Palestinian acts of retaliation. So, whether Israelis or Palestinians are killed the Palestinian public is made to pay a price. And since

closures only affect those with permits (and therefore security clearance) the futility of this action from a security perspective becomes evident.

Palestinians can scream and shout as much as they want. They can protest at checkpoints, in the press, even at the U.N., but Israelis don't care. They speak and understand another language (both figuratively and practically), and therefore care very little about the conditions of the people under their rule. I remember once complaining to a military official about the closure of Palestinian schools. He told me that children from that school threw stones at Israelis. I asked him if he was interested in a fool proof method of stopping the large number of Israelis dying in road accidents. A bit confused about the reason for me asking he said yes. I told him the solution is very simple: ban all cars from driving on the roads in Israel and you will eradicate road fatalities.

Normal countries don't act this way, because they understand that life needs to go on and they try to find other means to solve the problem. But if you are a military official, with the power to do as you please, and with no concern for how it will affect the lives of ordinary citizens, you can act with impunity.

Five years ago, when the Oslo agreement was signed, Palestinians were hoping that their lives would no longer be controlled by a foreign military power. At best, we hoped that the Palestinian National Authority would be able to defend our case when the military acted with impunity. Neither of these hopes have been fulfilled.

During the Oslo implementation negotiations Shimon Peres once said, "we are negotiating with ourselves." Every now and then, we notice that the Israeli military negotiates with itself. They decide to ease the closure here, allow a few workers to enter there and permit Palestinian products to cross the Green Line. The PNA has long been too politically crippled to be able to stand up to the Israelis in defence of the average Palestinian.

In view of all this, the only real consolation for Palestinians are the lessons from history. We learn from history that no country, no matter how strong and powerful it is, can rule over another people for ever.

## Regional peace, government policy under close scrutiny

Reviewed by  
 Mohammad Ben Hussein

Columnists last week commented on the American influence on the Arab World, the appointment of Taher Masi and Ahmad Obaidat as senators, the Saudi crown prince's visit to Europe, the peace process and the policy of the Tarawneh government.

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneh commented on the situation in the region saying it is totally controlled by the United States and Europe. He said Arab oil is under U.S. control, and Europe gets its share by buying it at minimal prices. The Arab Nation is the only side which does not have a role in the region, argues Faneh.

The Arab World supports the United States' policy in the region even though Washington supports Israel, said the writer. The Arab regimes accept the European economic role with its political defects. Faneh charged that Arabs love to hear nice slogans chanted even if they are never fulfilled. Europe should not be blamed for its negative role in the region, because it is incapable of competing with the United States, and there is no benefit in antagonising Washington if its interests in the region are protected, added Faneh.

Al Dustour's Jihad Momani praised the appointment of Taher Masi and Ahmad Obaidat as senators in the Upper House. Momani said the Obaidat appointment is very significant to Jordan-Israeli relations because Obaidat, former prime minister, firmly opposed all forms of normalisation with the Jewish state. Obaidat was always against boosting Jordanian ties with Israel, the Wadi Araba agreement and the cultural and economic exchanges between the two countries, said Momani. The writer said Masi's opposition to some Jordanian political decisions, comes from a belief in the welfare of Jordan. The incentive behind the appointment of Obaidat and Masi is the change in regional circumstances, said Momani, who added that the government has a space for all political orientations if all have the good of the country at heart.

Al Ra'i's Tareq Massarwa commented on Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz's visit to Europe and the United States. The presence of the American and Western

troops in the region, as well as the failure of the American administration in its efforts to revive the peace process, added to the fluctuation of oil prices has made Riyadh move to try to regain the strategic influence it lost after the Gulf war, claimed Massarwa. The Saudi leadership is involved in a concerted effort to improve its relations with the world starting in the Gulf region, said the writer, where they have started improving ties with Iran after tense relations for many years. According to English officials, Prince Abdullah will open the Iraqi file with the Americans and the Europeans during his visit, said Massarwa. He claimed that most Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, are fed up with the American stance concerning Iraq.

The writer expected the visit to be successful due to the stability and credibility of the Saudi leadership. Al Dustour in its editorial discussed recent efforts to break the deadlock in the peace process. The paper expected the American envoy to the region, Dennis Ross, to return to Washington empty-handed. The only way to force the peace march back on the road is through American pressure on the headline policies of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said the paper. Washington is now busy with internal disputes triggered by Clinton's sexual escapades, so the U.S. is too busy to exert any kind of pressure on Netanyahu to succumb to Israeli obligations under the Oslo Accords, said the Arabic daily. Netanyahu will be able to kill Ross' current effort to push forward the peace exactly the way he did with previous efforts, added the paper.

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneh criticised the government policy statement as not enough to show the real intentions of the government. The statement, argues Faneh, is designed to satisfy the deputies in order to win the vote of confidence. The writer called for a dialogue within the government and between the government and the private sector in order to improve situation in the Kingdom. He said the private sector must tell the government what it wants, and the government, as well, must tell the private sector what it wants in return. He said people have a right to know the government's true intentions before the first 100 days so they may prepare for events as they unfold, said Faneh.





## Features

# For Palestinians in Gaza peace bears bitter fruit

By Lee Hockstader

IN GAZA'S Jabalya Refugee Camp, a slice of real estate twice as crowded as Manhattan and scarred with rancid fields of garbage, Hussein Radwan counts as one of the lucky ones. He has a job.

Granted, the work isn't much. Radwan spends six days a week bent over a sewing machine in a sweatshop whose single concession to comfort is an overhead fan that stirs the thick summer air. For a 12-hour day stitching together denim skirts, he makes \$5.40 — just 45 cents an hour.

But with well over a third of Gazans looking for work, Radwan knows better than to complain. "In this job I can learn new skills," the 17-year-old Palestinian said tactfully. "Things could be worse."

For many Palestinians, they are. And that has come as a bitter shock to people here who were certain that the 1993 Oslo accord with Israel would deliver at least a measure of prosperity along with its promise of peace.

Instead, most Palestinians have become poorer since the peace agreement was signed five years ago. Incomes, buying power and private investment have plunged while the number of families living in poverty have swelled.

That is particularly true in Gaza, a 140-square-mile strip of sand, sun-scorched apartment blocks and squalid refugee camps stretched along the Mediterranean Sea.

It was Gaza's Jabalya Refugee Camp that gave birth to the intifada, the 1987-93 uprising against the Israeli occupation. But the mood today in Jabalya, if anything, is madder and more sullen than in the adrenaline-charged days of the intifada, when a generation of teenagers came of age in daily battle with the Israelis, residents say.

Now, the Israeli soldiers have withdrawn from most of Gaza, leaving rising poverty, crowding and bitterness in their wake.

"The economic situation in Gaza has deteriorated dramatically in the years of peace, which is a very strange phenomenon," said Khaled Abdel-Shafi, a Palestinian economist who sits on the Gaza

City council. "At first there was a lot of talk of Gaza becoming the Singapore of the Middle East. That's why, to a great extent, people supported the peace agreement, which in many ways is a bad deal for the Palestinians. They hoped at least the economic situation would improve."

The fear is that Palestinians will give up on the fraying Middle East peace process as their hopes for prosperity fade. Already, support is inching higher for Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, founder and spiritual leader of the militant Islamic group Hamas, according to polling data. If peace means impoverishment, some Palestinians say, why should they support it?

The question is all the more apt given the benefits the Oslo accord has brought to Israel.

Although the Israeli economy lately has hit a rocky patch, with joblessness creeping toward 10 per cent, it boomed in the mid-1990s. Most Israelis are better off now than they were when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shook hands at the White House five years ago.

The same cannot be said for Palestinians, however, especially in Gaza.

"The Palestinian economy is in crisis — a crisis measured not just in terms of declining income but also of declining hope," Stuart E. Eizenstat, U.S. under-secretary of state, told an Israeli audience in June. "We are at risk of diminishing the constituency for peace, not only among the public at large but increasingly among Palestinian business people."

To understand one of the reasons why the Palestinian economy has nosedived, it is helpful to pay a pre-dawn visit to the Erez Crossing, one of the few transit points between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

At 5 a.m., a half-moon still hangs in the purplish

sky, but the rush for the exits has already been on for an hour. Swarms of men — few women make the crossing — walk briskly to the Israeli security checkpoints, smoking their first cigarettes of the

day. From Gaza, it has fallen by two-thirds.

Beginning with the intifada, Israel slashed the number of Palestinian workers it admitted each day. While the government gradually has eased up in the last two years by handing out more work permits, it has not made up for the lost earnings.

What's more, sporadic Israeli closures of Gaza and the West Bank, in response to Palestinian terror attacks, prompted Jewish-owned businesses to seek a more reliable supply of labour. That led Israel's previous government to admit a huge influx of foreign workers, many of them from Romania and other East European countries.

The result: dwindling demand for Palestinian workers and less cash coming into Gaza's economy, where incomes are already half those of the West Bank — and a tenth those in Israel.

"Savings are gradually being exhausted," said Abdel-Shafi, the city council member. "People are selling their valuables. [Foreign] assistance compensates somewhat for a drop in private savings, but it won't go on forever."

Palestinian and foreign analysts also have blamed Israeli policies for the isolation of Gaza residents from their natural economic partners, the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank. Some 16,000 Palestinian businessmen — from Gaza and the West Bank — have permits to enter Israel every day, but only 800 are allowed to travel freely between Gaza and the West Bank.

The Oslo peace accords offered a blueprint for what amounted to a free-trade zone between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza. But what has evolved in practice is very different. Israel does not charge duty on products from Gaza or the West Bank, but



The squalor of the Gaza camps (file photo)

they kick up a haze of dirt and sand that hangs like a shroud over a small army of vendors selling falafel and sweets, yoghurt and hummus.

About 50,000 Palestinian workers, half of them from Gaza, cross into Israel proper every day to work in fields, factories, homes and gardens. By Palestinian standards, their wages are good — two or three times more than they could earn for a day's work in Gaza.

Yet the number of Palestinians authorised to work in Israel is down by half from a decade ago.

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its stringent security checks result in delays, higher transport costs and uncompetitive goods.

"I've seen them X-ray ice cream in the summer, taking it out of the truck box by box," said Salem Ajluni, an American economist working for the United Nations in Gaza. "I've seen eggs scanned by metal detectors."

According to Eizenstat, Palestinian entrepreneurs have complained it is cheaper to ship goods from the West Bank to Venice than from the West Bank to Gaza. As a result, Gaza makes do with more expensive goods produced in Israel.

"Now we are living in a very high-security jail," said Awmi Hasham, who owns a business that makes and sells office furniture in Gaza City. "We live in a very closed area, paying every penny we have for electricity, water, a place to live. This jail is the responsibility of both sides — the Palestinian Authority and Israel. They put us in this situation."

At no point in recent history — not before Israel captured Gaza in 1967 and began its military occupation, nor after, including since Israel withdrew its troops from Gaza four years ago and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority took over — has Gaza had an economic development plan. Lacking natural resources, Gaza languished as a supplier of cheap labour to Israel.

That was supposed to change after Israel and the Palestinians set a course toward peace in 1993. Marriott made plans to build a 200-room hotel, an investment of \$80 million that would showcase Gaza's spectacular beach. Calvin Klein expressed interest in building a factory.

But private investors became scarce as the peace process began to fray. Marriott froze its hotel plan after doing some landscaping. Calvin Klein seemed to disappear.

"For years we were asleep and dreaming of the future and our freedom," said Hasham. "And suddenly we woke up to see the future as it is. And it's not so good."

— International Herald Tribune

## A modern Shiite: Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah

David Gardner talks to the man who has taken Hizbollah away from its violent roots and towards a more responsible civil role in Lebanon

THE SOUTH Lebanon Army (SLA) — Israel's mercenaries in south Lebanon — is on the run. The disintegration of their motley force means that Israel's elite troops have been thrust into the last active front-line of the Arab-Israeli conflict, where they are now enduring a politically costly stream of casualties at the hands of Hizbollah, the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist movement spearheading the fight against the occupation. Few people are happier about this than Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hizbollah's leader.

"In the past the discussion was about the fate of the (SLA) officers in the event of a settlement. Now they want guarantees even in the absence of any agreement," he said in an interview at his safe-house in Bir Al Abed, the heart of the Party of God's stronghold in the suburbs of Beirut. "No doubt their morale must have deteriorated a lot."

The government of Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's tight-wing nationalist prime minister, has offered to withdraw if the Lebanese army — reconstituted from the sectarian militias which virtually destroyed Lebanon as a country in the 1975-90 civil war — guarantees the security of its northern border. Syria,

which deploys 35,000 troops to dominate Lebanon, insists on an unconditional withdrawal, as stipulated in U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978.

In Israel, Lebanon and Syria, many believe Mr. Netanyahu will soon withdraw anyway: under attrition; keen to pose as a peacemaker despite his unwillingness to surrender the conquered Palestinian and Syrian land which would make regional peace possible; and fearing that the sectarian Lebanese, artificially united by the Israeli occupation, would then turn their discontent on Syria, or perhaps themselves, again.

Sheikh Nasrallah does not buy that. "Netanyahu," he says, "is an opportunist, but he won't do it. It would be to admit defeat at the hands, not even of an army, but a certain group (Hizbollah). They would be stigmatised as losers, which would only encourage the Palestinians to redouble their efforts against the occupation of their land (by Israel)."

Hizbollah's agenda has long since moved beyond the resistance to Israel which has earned it prestige in politically fragmented Lebanon. It has come a long way since the infamous suicide bombings and kidnappings of westerners of the early 1980s. Sheikh Nasrallah is now bidding to join the Lebanese government. He also believes that the rise of Mohammad Khatami, the reformist president of

Iran, is a model of enlightened Islam which is sketching out a path for the region towards modernity and democracy.

Hizbollah was inspired and initially financed by the Shiite Islamic revolution in Iran and is licensed by Syria in a proxy conflict through which Damascus hopes to recover the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. It was born of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, which three years later Hizbollah fighters suicide-bombed back into the southern border enclave.

Hizbollah now has an impressive social and political network: hospitals, schools, a public housing unit and a widely watched TV station, mosques, orphanages, and the most assiduous faction in a parliament full of clan leaders and sectarian hacks. Since Lebanon's recent and first municipal elections in 35 years, Hizbollah can also claim to be the leading organisation of the Shi'a, the largest of Lebanon's communities.

Much of this is down to Sheikh Nasrallah, whose name means "God's victory." Now 38, he took over the organisation in 1992 after his predecessor, Sheikh Abbas Musawi, was assassinated in an Israeli helicopter ambush, and he has just been reelected to a third term as secretary-general. Wearing the black turban of a Sayyid — or descendant of the Prophet Mohammad — he is precise in his

answers which are devoid of rhetoric but laced with acerbic humour.

"Yes," he says, "Hizbollah does foresee eventual entry into the government. It's a question of timing and whether we can get elements of our programme considered." A new government is expected at the end of November, after parliament elects a new (Christian) president, who appoints the executive (Sunni Muslim) prime minister, expected to be Rafiq al Hariri, the billionaire construction tycoon and current premier who has staked his career on the renaissance of Beirut.

"We want a government of institutions, with ministers who make decisions, not the board of a corporation" — a reference to Mr. Hariri's no-nonsense, businessman's approach to his project of rebuilding Beirut as the Middle East's financial centre. He wants, too, "a professional and honest civil service regardless of religion" to replace the sectarian quota system imposed by some of the corrupt warlords and feudal clan leaders in today's cabinet. And priority to the fight against joblessness and poverty.

Hizbollah has long eschewed the idea of an Islamic state in Lebanon, pursuing instead a programme which is almost Blainite in its pragmatism.

It has been encouraged in this by the impact of President Khatami's Islamic democracy project in

Iran, which, if successful in its attempt to make government accountable to the rule of law and the assent of the governed, will challenge the fossilised despotism bequeathing most of the Arab World.

What is going on in Iran "presents a model and an example," says Sheikh Nasrallah. "There are a lot of models. Some of them very dangerous like the Taliban" — the neo-medieval Sunni militia which has conquered most of Afghanistan with Saudi Arabian and Pakistani backing and U.S. logistics support.

This is the "Made in USA" combination, he points out, which backed the Mujahadeen resistance to the Soviet invasion in the 1980s and bequeathed the "Arab-Afghan" phenomenon — former Arab volunteers in that war who now turn their guns on their governments and U.S. targets.

It suits the U.S., he says, to "show Islam as ignorance, savagery, the degradation of women, a regression to factional warfare, and to teach this not as propaganda but through groups to which they give arms."

In Iran, by contrast, "what is being presented is an enlightened and tolerant Islam, based on the origins of our religion. This model will have a gradual and positive impact on the Arab World, affecting its people, and through them its governments."

— Financial Times

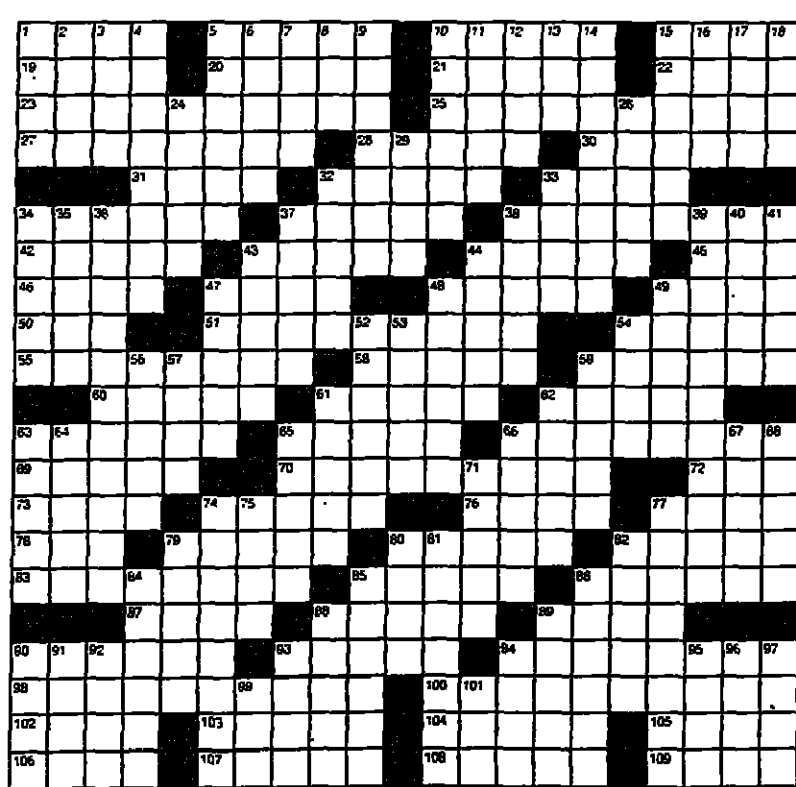
## The Saturday Crossword

ASHORE

By Edgar Fontaine, Dighton, Massachusetts

- ACROSS
- 1 Wife of a rajah
  - 5 Chew noisily
  - 10 Accumulate
  - 15 Storage structure
  - 19 Tarnish situation
  - 20 For short
  - 21 "Taxi" dispatcher
  - 22 Shade of purple
  - 23 Goddess of the moon
  - 24 Temporary structure?
  - 25 Recreational vehicle
  - 27 Rolling grasslands
  - 28 Small conbrids
  - 30 Commands
  - 31 Nice legs: slang
  - 32 Dresses in
  - 33 Smelling residue
  - 34 Quaking trees
  - 37 Fine-grained silica
  - 38 Keyboard element
  - 42 Peek
  - 43 Tale after
  - 44 Valentine shape
  - 45 Grow old
  - 46 Ancient people of northern Britain
  - 47 Wingless
  - 48 "Trees" and "The Raven," e.g.
  - 49 Wild shot
  - 50 One of T. Turner's characters
  - 51 Shore
  - 52 Transportation?
  - 54 Ray's title
  - 55 Worked up
  - 58 Covers with fat
  - 59 Lynx or tiger
  - 60 Showed sympathetic concern

- DOWN
- 1 Abrasive tool
  - 2 Hebrew month
  - 3 Pin's sister spirit
  - 4 Impoverished
  - 5 Insurance cases
  - 6 Firefighter's equipment
  - 7 Lining ends.
  - 8 1,000,000: slang
  - 9 Hunts
  - 10 Emission or Gory
  - 11 Belating
  - 12 Lamentation's cry
  - 13 US defense grp.
  - 14 Students
  - 15 Oozy sediment
  - 16 Colossal
  - 17 Art print abbr.
  - 18 Period of light
  - 24 Turn a handle
  - 26 Leaflike plant part
  - 27 Seldom seen



- ACROSS
- 61 —Terns
  - 62 "Blind Blues" playwright
  - 63 Packing material
  - 65 Enclosed
  - 66 Falling in
  - 69 Reprobrates
  - 70 Protection, of a sort
  - 72 Jamaican music
  - 73 Sheridan and Miller
  - 74 Sleek
  - 76 Witch
  - 77 McCartneyism
  - 78 Letters
  - 79 Muscle spasm
  - 80 Gutter Stewart
  - 82 Elevator
  - 83 Plotter
  - 85 Granges
  - 86 Stroked lightly
  - 87 Solitary
  - 88 Between then and now
  - 89 Expeditious
  - 90 Female graduate
  - 93 Medivity
  - 94 Solar system models
  - 98 Swimmers' protection
  - 100 New-swimmer's device
  - 102 Fragrance
  - 103 Glorify
  - 104 Dispatch boat
  - 105 Dermo ending?
  - 106 Coin flip
  - 107 Lacoste and Russo
  - 108 Pleasure cruiser
  - 109 Youngsters

- DOWN
- 57 God of war
  - 59 Some Scandinavians
  - 61 Entirely physical
  - 62 Blockade
  - 63 College groups, briefly
  - 64 Type of column
  - 65 New Russian ruler
  - 66 Tiles
  - 67 Russian proclamation
  - 68 Walked worriedly
  - 71 Greeting-card message, typically
  - 74 Former German leader
  - 75 Make a hole
  - 77 Three consecutive goals
  - 79 In the company of

## Corruption: Facing the seamy side of economic failure

By Flora Lewis

THE TABOO word "corruption" is now front and centre at international conferences on development, no longer the dirty word that no one is prepared to speak. This is a notable advance, because it is leading to some practical exchanges on how to deal with it.

The spreading economic crisis — East Asia, Russia, Latin America, perhaps Wall Street — has everyone worried. But the slogging effort to promote development is going on, with the same insistence that it depends on attracting investment. Abandoning globalisation is not one of the many lessons to draw from collapsing regional markets, was the conclusion at a meeting here.

It was the second Mediterranean Development Forum, sponsored by the World Bank and 10 think tanks in the area, with the idea of giving experts in the South a better chance to compare experiences and speak to each other, as well as to talk back to the hectoring North.

Some 450 people from 40 countries were present. They were neither big businessmen nor top officials but the kind of people who do the research and study the specifics underlying grand theories.

They were prepared to be blunt about why the Middle East-North Africa region is lagging behind some other parts of the world in economic growth, and they don't see crashing, as some "miracle" economies have done, as a reason to avoid pushing forward.

Rather, to a large extent, the focus was on reinforcing and assuring gains by broad public participation and better governance. The view was that open societies are better able to weather economic storms.

"Decentralisation" and "transparency" are the jargon words now, and they mean promoting civil liberties and accountability, which are both in short supply in the area.

One careful study showed that coun-

tries which permit strikes and demonstrations do not suffer the expected setbacks but rather do better with investment projects than those with a firm surface stability achieved by repression. Tolerating "public expression of social tensions" turns out to be an economic plus.

Corruption is recognised as a severe

To fight corruption, 'tackle the easy problems first', and then 'fry the big fish'

economic as well as social malady, and the arguments that it "greases the wheels" or "is part of the culture," or that "everybody does it," were roundly rejected. It is just that corruption is hard to fight when interests and habits are so deeply entrenched. But it can be done.

Ronald McLean Abaroa, a former mayor of La Paz, Bolivia, told how he turned around an impossible situation in his city in a couple of years and went on to be elected to four terms. "Start in your own house, your own party," he said. "Tackle the easy problems first" to show early success and raise confidence. "Fry the big fish" to show that you mean it. The audience was rapt.

Farida Allaghi, who identified herself as a director of the Arab Gulf Pro-

gramme based in Riyadh, but turned out to be a Libyan exile, rose to make an impassioned response about the need she sees for such programmes. She is 51, American-educated and the mother of two daughters, she said afterward. And "I am angry."

She said she had no trouble functioning as a woman in Saudi Arabia, although she does refrain from driving a car and wears a veil there. "It's a local custom, like an Indian woman in a sari. It doesn't bother me." But she was bothered by the question whether she would have dared to make the same public statement of contempt for the way things work if she were back home. She didn't answer.

Daniel Kaufmann of the World Bank offered a long, detailed study of practical ways to go about fighting endemic corruption, including the necessity of penalising both the givers and the receivers of bribes.

The OECD, representing the world's industrial states, has agreed that its members should stop allowing tax deductions for bribes paid to do business abroad, and make the payments a crime. That, said Mr. Kaufmann, "is the easier first stage." He suggests incentives for honesty through business associations and lighter penalties for the party involved in a corrupt transaction who reports it first. Nobody has been able to add up the real cost of corruption to the world's economy, but it is well known that countries which ought to be rather like the Congo and Nigeria, are dead poor and getting nowhere, while countries like Russia and Indonesia have billionaires shovelling money abroad and starving millions.

It is not really true that the market does not care where the money goes so long as it can be made. The current crises, and the laggards and failures, show that corruption supported by autocracy can make a big difference. Fighting it is a serious way to promote development.

— International Herald Tribune



# Tarawneh: Government will strive to consolidate gains of reforms

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said his government will press ahead with economic reforms to fight widespread poverty and unemployment.

Speaking to Lower House deputies on Thursday at the opening of the second extraordinary session of the summer and ahead of a vote of confidence in his government, Tarawneh pledged that his 24-man team will also proceed with privatisation despite criticism by deputies and some in the business sector.

"The economic restructuring programme has succeeded within the aspired goals to narrow the imbalances in the balance of payments, regaining the strength of the dinar and maintaining a reserve that would protect it," the premier told the lawmakers.

"The government will work hard to deepen the benefits of the programme and push ahead on the road of economic development," he said.

Tarawneh was referring to the economic restructuring agreement the government signed with the International Monetary Fund in 1989.

"The financial policies of this government strive to consolidate the gains of the economic reforms... the political and economic basis (of the budget) will be the continuation of the financial reform," said the 49-year-old premier.

He said the government will continue to follow rigorous monetary policies in order to ensure the stability of the national currency and maintain the credibility of the investment climate in the country.

Tarawneh said the government will determine

expenditure priorities before drafting the 1999 budget which will be submitted to the House at the proper time.

"The government will go ahead with the privatisation programme in line with the national strategy that was initiated by the Lower House," he said, referring to the House debate on the privatisation process which drew criticism among members of the 80-member chamber.

But he pledged that the privatisation process will not involve any prejudices against public sector employees.

"This will not lead to harming the workers or serving the monopolies and narrow interests of the private sector," the premier said.

He said the government will exert all efforts to increase foreign exports, especially to the Arab World and the Palestinian

market in particular.

"The government will continue its negotiations with the Israeli government to end its monopoly over the Palestinian market and to remove all obstacles that impede the flow of Jordanian goods to Palestine," he said.

Tarawneh was referring to continuous Israeli blockades of Jordan-made goods to the self-rule Palestinian areas despite trilateral agreements among the three parties, which caused dissatisfaction among the business community in the country.

The premier said his government will extend all assistance to encourage domestic and foreign investments in the Kingdom in various fields.

On poverty, Tarawneh said his team will exert all possible efforts to put an end to this phenomenon to reach an acceptable level through programmes, legis-

lation and national action.

He noted that the social safety net plan was introduced to eradicate poverty, unemployment and to uproot their causes through several programmes, which include financing small and medium projects by poor families and direct financial assistance.

Tarawneh pledged that his government will submit a draft law that regulates the activities of the commercial banks to include "new developments" in the banking sector and to develop a secondary market to trade in government and corporate bonds.

He said his government will support the tourism industry, a major foreign currency earner which amounted to 10 per cent of the national domestic product in the past few years.

## Jordan central bank sees 2.5 per cent growth in 1998

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's

central bank forecast a modest 2.5 per cent growth in real GDP (gross domestic product) in 1998 against 2.2 per cent last year, the bank's annual report said.

The bank attributed the modest growth, at market prices, to an unfavourable regional environment hurt by uncertainty over Middle East peace-making and depressed oil prices, which impact on Jordanian hard currency remittance flows

and labour opportunities in oil-rich Arab Gulf states.

Inflation was forecast to stay within "acceptable levels" of around 3.5 per cent in 1998 provided IMF-directed structural reforms stay on track, the bank said.

Officially the cost of living index which focuses on a handful of basic commodities has remained constant in an average range of four to five per cent over the last few years.

The bank said the 1998

budget deficit, excluding foreign aid, was expected to reach six per cent of GDP and 2.6 per cent after factoring in assistance, which was budgeted at 189.8 million dinars.

But the government was hopeful growth in local revenue would top 11.6 per cent, while public expenditure would rise by a more modest 8.4 per cent, reflecting greater fiscal restraint, the bank's report said.

REUTERS

REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
	USD	GBP	DEM	FRF	ITL	JPY	CHF	SEK	NOK
US Dollar	1.0000	0.6936	1.3366	122.70	1.3661	167.00	1.9362	0.9762	
DE Mark	0.6936	1.0000	0.8220	78.46	0.8034	93.75	1.1275	1.3626	
GB Sterling	1.4422	1.4422	2.3423	223.89	2.6783	258.31	3.2132	3.6666	
CH Franc	0.7186	1.2156	0.4284	1.0000	0.6642	1.0879	1.2010	1.3708	4.0787
JP Yen	0.0076	1.2731	0.4486	1.0468	1.1804	12.58	143.82	4.2878	
CA Dollar	0.6940	1.1061	0.3881	0.9068	1.18	109.30	1.2472	3.7119	
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0111	0.3848	0.0831	1280.40	0.9138	11.40	3.3834	
NL Guilder	0.4241	0.6643	0.5110	72.39	0.8010	378.08	2.9747		
FR Franc	0.1762	0.2979	0.1046	24.4889	0.2882	33.69	33.6900		

Middle Eastern Currencies									
	USD	GBP	DEM	FRF	ITL	JPY	CHF	SEK	NOK
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7000	1.3700	0.3770	3.4400	0.3041	3.6720	1.8120	3.4020
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	0.2800	0.8317	8.1240	0.4288	5.1803	2133.20	4.7890	
Saudi Riyal	0.2688	0.1890	0.1008	0.97	0.0811	0.88	403.27	0.8073	
Bahrain Dinar	2.88	1.8807	9.8491	9.88	0.9087	8.74	4012.16	0.8288	
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	0.0935	1.01	418.82	0.9347	
Kuwait Dinar	3.2884	2.3316	12.3334	1.2337	1.197	12.08	4073.89	0.9347	
UAE Dirham	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0208	0.0911	0.8828	411.81	0.9384	
Lebanese Lira	0.88	0.4688	2.6797	0.2492	2.4096	0.2011	2.4283	2.3498	
Egyptian	0.2938	0.2084	1.1023	0.1108	1.0888	0.0884	1.0784	444.83	

Energy									
	USD	GBP	DEM	FRF	ITL	JPY	CHF	SEK	NOK
Brent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W. Texas	16.88	16.87							
Bonny	0.00	0.00							
Dubai	13.30	12.84							
U.L. Gas	133.00	133.00							

Metal Prices									
	USD	GBP	DEM	FRF	ITL	JPY	CHF	SEK	NOK
Gold (oz's)	290.5	281.3							
Silver (oz's)	4.88	4.98							
Platinum (oz's)	385.7	361.7							
AL (3 Months)	1348	1348							
CU (3 Months)	1882	1882							
Zinc (3 Months)	1000	1000							
Lead (3 Months)	821	821							
Ni (3 Months)	4115	4120							

Currency Deposit Rates (Bids)									
	USD	GBP	DEM	FRF	ITL	JPY	CHF	SEK	NOK
USD	6.6888	8.8000	8.4141	8.2813					
GBP	7.4376	7.4376	7.3088	7.3888					
DEM	0.4102	0.4102	0.4492	0.4870					
FRF	3.4688	3.4688	3.5915	3.6828					
JPY	3.8000	1.9000	1.8328	1.7188					
CHF	1.4083	0.5313	0.5703	0.5887					
ITL	0.0280	0.0080	0.4670						

JOD Cross Rates									
	USD	GBP	DEM	FRF	ITL	JPY	CHF	SEK	NOK
US Dollar	0.706	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.1876	1.1937							
DE Mark	0.4188	0.4289							
CH Franc	0.8087	0.8112							
FR Franc	0.1249	0.1285							
JP Yen	0.827	0.8298							
NL Guilder	0.3713	0.3732							
IT Lira	0.4238	0.426							

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## Proposed amendments to Social Security Law link pensions to cost of living

By Ghalia Alul

AMMAN — After months of debate, the Social Security Corporation has proposed amendments to the Social Security Law which would raise pensions in line with the cost of living, according to SSC Public Relations Director Ali Issa.

"If passed, this decision will be a great leap in the corporation's law," Issa told the Jordan Times.

Proposed amendments did not affect the current retirement age of 60 for men and 55 for women, nor the early retirement age of 45 provided the retiree has been paying his/her monthly contributions to the corporation for 15 continuous years.

Issa added that the corporation which has, since its establishment in 1980, benefited 380,571 Jordanians, decided to increase the number of pension beneficiaries or the surviving relatives of a pensioner to include the unborn child of a deceased male pensioner and his widowed sisters and daughters. The benefit would also extend to the surviving husbands of pensioners.

"The current law only benefits disabled, widowed husbands," Issa said. The amendments also propose to extend benefits to the sons and brothers of the deceased who are over 18, unlike the current legislation which only

benefits those under 18 years of age, according to Issa.

He added that the SSC which has investments totalling about JD 1.1 billion, will not determine the percentage paid on pensions until it concludes an "actuarial" study conducted once every five years to predict the corporation's financial situation.

Under the current legislation, the retiree receives a minimum pension of JD78 monthly — below the current per capita income of about JD90.

Issa added that the corporation in its draft legislation, eliminated a loophole in the Labour Law which allows the employer to terminate the worker's service for health reasons.

"Under the proposed legislation the corporation will not allow the employer to terminate the service of any SSC subscriber until he/she undergoes a check up by the corporation's medical committee," Issa said.

Other amendments, Issa added, include improving upon the corporation's work-related injuries list

whereby subscribers suffering from previously unlisted injuries will receive compensation after their case is presented to the cabinet.

The corporation has also decided to raise from 65 to 75 per cent the amount paid for compensation for hospitalised subscribers who sustained work-related injuries and illnesses, according to Issa.

The draft law proposes to grant a subscriber's heirs 50 per cent of the salary earned by the deceased before his/her death if the death was caused by an occupational injury, Issa said.

Since its establishment, the SSC spent JD 318 million on 380,571 subscribers, pensioners and beneficiaries while during the first half of 1998, it spent about JD 31 million on 13,000 subscribers, pensioners and beneficiaries.

Of the total beneficiaries, the SSC provided medical care to 132,000 subscribers, while 21,000 received lump sum compensation, and 38,000 received pensions.

According to analysts the corporation's expenses

are expected to grow especially with the increase in population and the rise in the number of retired employees.

But according to Issa, the SSC — which expects to match its 1997 profits of JD80 million this year — is capable of fulfilling its obligations towards its subscribers because it keeps track of its financial situation through the actuarial studies.

The SSC's spending on pensions in the first half of this year increased by 17.7 per cent over the same period last year, the corporation's Director General Safwan Toukan has said.

He said during the first half of this year about 3,044 retired subscribers became eligible for pensions amounting to JD21.5 million, while 4,000 workers received a total of JD 1 million for the cost of medical treatment during the same period.

The amendments to the law must be presented to the cabinet and Parliament before it is endorsed, Issa added.

**A New approach**

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**STYLE**

**THE Daily Crossword** Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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**ACROSS**

- Cradle call
- Saudi, e.g.
- Repeat oneself
- Lupino and others
- Infant
- Fragrance
- Gymnastic feat
- Improvises musically
- Conductor
- Toscanini
- Ancient Irish village
- Actor Wallace
- Mr. T's last name
- Setter
- Prepare a play
- Little legumes
- Physicians' soc.
- Sailing vessel
- Working group
- Coloration
- Birthplace of Apollo
- Fishing device
- Standish stand-in
- Desert springs
- Poetic pasture
- Leak slowly
- Truck driver
- Apollo spacecraft
- Letter-clarification words
- Hockey's Bobby
- Author of "Pornography"
- Nation of Roma
- Architect Jones
- Gymnastic feat
- Sheets and towels
- Highland Gaelic
- Lump of dirt
- Some lilies
- Defeat
- Christian Andersen

**DOWN**

- Isinglass
- Hebrew month
- Trading center
- Shrewd
- Loathed
- "Norma"
- Act as a lookout, e.g.
- Rule of an organization
- Deviated
- Notable period
- Gymnastic feat
- Sufficient
- Mr. Ararat
- Levitic
- Get handed a bum
- Start of a path?
- British peer
- Pro (in proportion)
- Oscar-winner
- Jannings
- Gymnastic feat
- Brilliance
- Old Testament book
- Let loose
- Sorrowful drop
- Golf shop buy
- Coasts
- Transmission
- cells
- "NYPD Blue" co-star Jimmy
- Refrain
- Part of 13D
- Grasp suddenly
- Spirals
- Putter Palmer
- Barrymore or Waters
- Protagonist
- Refrain
- Syllables
- Part of 62
- States further
- Earth; prel.
- Ninnyhammer

**Peanuts**

SOMETIMES I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT, AND I ASK, "WHY ISN'T THE WORLD PERFECT?"

THEN A VOICE COMES TO ME THAT SAYS, "WE ADMIT IT... THERE ARE STILL A FEW KINKS THAT NEED WORKING OUT."

**Andy Capp**

THIS WEEK LET'S HAVE A GAMBOL!

GOOD IDEA, VICAR! THAT LASS OF MINE WILL GAMBOL ON ANYTHING!

NOW SHE'S STARTED TUCKING HER MONEY AWAY IN THE MORE THAT I'LL BE WORTH SOMETHING SOMEDAY

**Mutt'n'Jeff**

WHEN YOU MARRIED ME YOU MARRIED ME FOR LIFE!

YES, AND I SOON FOUND OUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A FAMILY MAN IS SUPPOSED TO DO?

YES! A FAMILY MAN IS SUPPOSED TO FEED SEVERAL SMALL MOUTHS AND ONE BIG ONE!

I LOVE I SWEAR I WAS ONLY JOKING!

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

"It took me three hours to download 281,567 E-mails. I've got a hunch that some of it might be advertising."

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David Arnold and Mike Ariffin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KULCC

SUMOE

VOALAW

USUBED

Answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHIDE DRAFT GOODLY RAMROU Answer: What the miner's son carried to the garbage can — THE MOTHER LOAD



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

### Investors rush to register new companies for setting up plants to provide 'quality' water

**ABOUB 50** new companies estimated to have a total capital of JD15 million have registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade to deal with desalination, purification, treatment and bottling drinking water. It is not known yet if these companies have really obtained final licences to go ahead with establishment procedures and production, but officials at the ministry said the firms have registered according to prevailing norms.

Meanwhile, a specialised committee representing the ministries of industry, supply, water and health is still studying these registration requests. Furthermore, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation is handling studies of wells from which the water will be produced, a source who requested anonymity said. He added that some of the companies that registered actually own artesian wells and have requested a permission to obtain licences to benefit from the network of the Water Authority in treating, desalinating and purifying the water.

The source did not clarify if the companies were given the requested permission but indicated that the whole subject is still under study by the committee. Upon approval for any of the companies to start production, the Ministry of Health will be supervising the process. In the meantime, the Ministry of Industry and Trade is currently studying the economic viability of establishing new bottling plants/companies. A prominent official said there is no reason preventing the establishment of new bottling firms. "Two or three firms have already been licensed but the remaining applications are still under considera-

tion," he indicated.

According to the directorate of industry at the ministry, most of the new registrations took place last month. An official at the directorate said the ministry is coordinating with the Water Authority with regard to the wells that the companies intend to utilise. Other officials said the government does not object to resolving the water crisis through setting up such companies but they seem-ingly expressed reservations at the large number of applications. "Permission cannot be given to all of them to carry out this work," an official stressed.

Economists have warned of expected disappointment for these companies with regard to economic feasibility. They said the market could be saturated with mineral or purified water if three plants under construction are added to the already five operating plants in light of the absence of export opportunities.

The economists noted the existence of similar and advanced industries in the neighbouring countries which do not suffer from a water crisis.

The crisis which resulted from an unprecedented demand for mineral water did not only force the government to import it from outside but also encouraged many investors to seize the opportunity and move to set up new companies attracted by the large profits amassed by the five existing firms.

Digging more wells was banned and limited only to agricultural purposes on a very narrow scale. But the water crisis have pushed the authorities to digging more wells and to allow the private sector to dig additional wells in search for new water source to plug the shortage (Al Ra'i).

## Share prices of potash, phosphate companies drop to record levels

By Tareq Ayyoub

**AMMAN** — Despite an increase in the stock market's turnover, share prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) dipped by 2.08 points last week as a result of declines in prices of major firms, a broker said Friday.

Naim Naqeb, a broker, indicated that most of the firms, especially the Arab and Housing banks, the Arab Potash Company and the Phosphate Mines Company, have posted lower share prices.

The broker said the potash and phosphate companies have recorded "the lowest share prices in their history" during the past week as prices dropped to JD3,950 and JD1,570 respectively.

"The decline was a reflection

of investors' dismay following the negative half year results published by these companies," Naqeb told the Jordan Times.

"The prices reflect the situation at the two companies and I do not rule out further declines in their prices," he said.

He added that the Arab Bank share price lost 1.17 per cent, down from 177.73 points in the previous week.

The bulletin showed lower prices in all the sectors with the index falling by 2.88, 1.18, 3.04 and 0.61 points in the banking, industrial, services and insurance sectors respectively.

The banking sector won the bulk of the stock market's turnover for a total of JD2.4 million, or 49.1 per cent followed by the indus-

trial sector with JD2.02 million, 40.5 per cent of the total turnover. The services sector accounted for JD470,000, 9.4 per cent, and the insurance sector trailed with JD50,000, or one per cent.

The Arab and Philadelphia banks topped trading in the banking sector. The investors were encouraged by the latter's current prices "which led to more speculations on this share," Naqeb said.

Trading in the industrial sector focused on the potash company and the Universal Modern Industries, with a turnover amounting to JD369,736 and JD263,710 respectively.

Naqeb said the "sudden demand" for the latter's share followed a multi-million deal the company

signed with Iraq to supply Baghdad with vegetable oil in line with the oil-for-food agreement.

The organised market's share in the turnover amounted to JD4.3 million while the parallel market received JD607,387, the bulletin showed.

Naqeb said that demand for the Union Tobacco shares in the parallel, which amounted to JD181,573, followed the "good results" the company recorded in the first half of this year.

The bulletin concluded that out of the 99 firms which changed hands in the stock market, 25 companies recorded increase in their prices, 51 registered decrease and 23 firms witnessed no change in their share prices.

## TERS nation

18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00
1672.00	1.9082	6.8742
887.48	1.1278	3.3828
2816.31	3.2192	9.6656
1201.08	137.08	4.0707
12.68	143.82	4.2878
1082.20	1.2472	2.7118
878.08	11.40	2.3894
33.69	33.6900	2.9727

18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00
3.6728	1812.50	3.4028
6.1803	2133.28	4.7800
0.98	405.27	3.8072
8.74	402.16	0.0288
1.01	418.82	0.9347
12.08	487.68	0.8847
4.11	41.81	0.8284
2.4283		2.2401
1.0734	444.53	

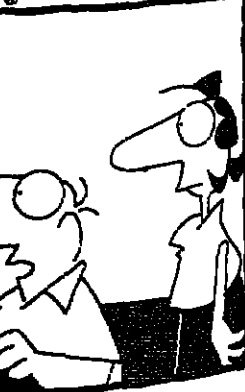
18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00
0.16823	0.37089	36.4200
0.16163	0.37654	36.1719
1.95198	4.67247	438.872
1.8748	3.88732	382.301
1.18339	2.7755	284.76

18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00
8.6000	8.4141	8.2372
7.4375	7.3088	7.0838
0.4102	0.4482	0.4570
3.4482	3.5315	3.5881
1.8000	1.8328	1.7108
3.5313	3.6703	3.6887
6.0080	4.6750	

18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00	18/09/98 8:00
\$ Dollar	0.708	0.710
sterling	1.1678	1.1687
SE Mark	0.4198	0.4200
JP Franc	8.0287	8.0112
JP Franc	0.1249	0.1250
JP Yen	0.527	0.528
JP Yen	0.5713	0.5722
IT Lira	0.4238	0.4240

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

By Glasbergen



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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is a great day to clean out your garage. The sun and moon are both in Virgo, the sign of cleanliness, tidiness, getting organised and serving others. How many others in your household would like to use the garage for, say, parking the car? If you were to clean up, they could do that, and so could you.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Love is in the air, and all around you. Stop to take a minute to congratulate yourself, and your loved ones. A beautiful experience of love is totally natural, but not always easy to achieve. If you had to overcome a few obstacles to get to where you are, you deserve a round of applause. Give yourselves at least one.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Looks like company at your house — both people you love and people you're a little uncomfortable around. Don't worry. You're strong, dynamic, forthright and good looking. You're also funny, and that's how you'll maintain calm. You want everything to be perfect, but keeping folks laughing is even better.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) Excellent learning conditions are in effect again today. You'll remember almost everything you see and hear, so be selective. Try to see both sides of the issues. You can do some creative thinking, too, rather than merely absorbing information uncritically, then repeating it. Who knows? You could wind up being an expert.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You've been performing magnificently, so people are looking at you. It's time to get your portfolio out there. Let people know what you can do for them. It's Saturday, so that slows things down a little, but if you're in show business, it doesn't make any difference what day it is. If you're not in show business, maybe you should be.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You should be in a marvellous mood today. Romance is going well. It's easy for you to find the right words to express yourself. People find you attractive, charming, intelligent, witty and darn good looking. What more could you ask for? Don't even worry about that right now. Just concentrate on what you've got, and savour it.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) The sun's in Virgo. The moon's also in Virgo, conjuncts Venus and Mercury. This is another day to clean up old communication. It'll be good for you. Venus is your ruling planet, so when the moon conjuncts Venus, you get even more powerful. Today, you'll remember details and vow to get things absolutely perfect.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Your friends will be inspired to come from love and to talk a little more freely than before. This will be going on all day long and well into the night, so it's a marvellous time for a party. You'll not only enjoy being together, but you might also find out what they really think, and that's always interesting.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You may get quizzed again today on a subject you've been studying recently. Don't despair. The examiner wants you to succeed, and just about anything you say will be well received. Knowing this ahead of time, you can figure out how to make the very best use of these conditions.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) All systems go! Full speed ahead, bon voyage and happy camping. You need to get out and expand your horizons. You don't take vacations very often, and you might have thought you couldn't afford this one. Actually, just the opposite is true. You can't afford not to, and today is your best opportunity.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Yesterday's advice still holds. Get your financial affairs in order, and if you need help, ask for it. There's something about finances that you usually find stressful. That'll be less so than normal today, since conditions are pushing you to learn more about that area of life. You might as well. How hard can it be?

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your mate or partner is darning you nuts by continually offering suggestions on how to improve your performance. If this person would concentrate on his or her own act, you'd be delighted, but that's not likely. If you can manage to turn the focus from you to anything else, congratulations. It's a goal worth striving for.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

## Russia's crisis affects Brazilian coffee exports

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP)** — Brazilian coffee exporters will work on new marketing strategies in order to cope with Russia's financial turmoil, the Brazilian Instant Coffee Industry Association has said.

Russia is the world's largest importer of Brazilian instant coffee and its financial turmoil will affect Brazil's exports, explained association chief Mauro Malta. "The question is to what degree."

Coffee industry members will meet as soon as Russia's markets indicate where they are heading, Malta said.

The industry's problems — already great before the crisis — will now worsen, Malta explained.

Export figures between January and June were the worst ones in six years, Malta said. Within a year, Brazil exports dropped by 19.37 per cent in volume and 12.7 per cent in sales.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET															
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHIKHANI															
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607172															
UNLISTED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (17/09/1998 - 16/09/1998)															
WEEKLY REPORT															
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	TURNOVER SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS	
HIGH	LOW														
231.000	220.000	ARAB BANK	18.2	0.90	76	9050	1997448	224.50	225.00	220.00	223.00	1.50	220.715	103	5
1.480	1.440	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.4	4.24	20	13613	22519	1.66	1.64	1.65	1.65	0.01	1.654	032	4
1.130	1.030	BANK OF JORDAN	17.8	0.00	7	15528	57168	1.05	1.06	1.01	1.02	0.01	1.024	246	5
1.010	0.960	MID. EAST INV. BK.	67.4	0.00	5	14700	14700	4.75	4.51	4.35	4.35	0.00	4.348	147	3
1.590	1.580	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	11.1	6.57	7	6100	9653	1.58	1.59	1.58	1.59	0.01	1.582	009	1
3.700	3.650	THE HOUSING BK.	18.7	3.39	94	32907	98822	3.06	3.08	2.93	2.95	0.11	3.003	033	5
1.840	1.740	JOR. UNIFIED BANK	8.00	0.00	8	1133	2026	1.78	1.80	1.78	1.78	0.00	1.788	008	4
0.600	0.580	JOR. GULF BANK	0.00	0.00	8	7000	4000	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.00	0.580	035	2
2.070	2.070	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	43.1	2.48	2	200	394	2.02	2.02	1.92	2.02	0.00	1.970	001	1
1.760	1.710	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.8	0.00	38	24201	42009	1.73	1.75	1.72	1.74	0.01	1.736	110	5
0.980	0.980	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	159.4	0.00	3	1200	1170	0.98	1.00	0.97	1.00	0.02	0.975	006	2
1.940	1.430	JOR. INV. FIB. BANK	22.8	3.38	16	11310	16405	1.48	1.49	1.46	1.48	0.00	1.488	057	3
0.780	0.750	BEIT AL HAL (BEITHA)	3.6	0.00	5	1200	870	0.75	0.72	0.74	0.74	0.01	0.746	005	2
0.710	0.600	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	1075.8	0.00	119	244879	175026	0.69	0.72	0.69	0.70	0.01	0.715	2448	5
CHANGE - 1.0.98%															
BANKS SECTOR					429	423421	2442140	INDEX NUMBER	1 292.71	CHANGE - 1.0.98%					
2.140	2.140	GENERAL ARAB INSUR.	22.3	3.92	2	1612	3288	2.14	2.04	2.04	2.04	0.10	2.040	001	1
1.400	1.380	JERUSALEM INSUR.	9.4	5.80	2	1400	1932	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	0.00	1.380	052	1
2.770	2.440	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	7.4	9.43	20	12750	14019	2.70	2.71	2.65	2.65	0.05	2.660	008	5
1.120	1.100	HOLY LAND INSUR.	8.2	0.00	2	4014	4417	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00	1.100	200	1
1.950	1.640	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.5	0.00	4	554	1086	1.95	1.98	1.95	1.98	0.03	1.953	021	3
CHANGE - 1.0.48%															
INSURANCE SECTOR					30	20334	44742	INDEX NUMBER	1 126.67	CHANGE - 1.0.48%					
1.540	1.480	JOR. ELECTRIC PUR.	9.7	5.54	85	53686	79874	1.48	1.51	1.48	1.49	0.01	1.488	268	5
1.100	1.010	JERUSALEM ELECTRICITY	11.9	5.18	1	1000	1000	2.03	1.93	1.93	1.93	0.00	1.930	003	1
0.750	0.750	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	17.8	3.45	7	15558	4793	0.75	0.74	0.75	0.75	0.00	0.750	001	1
0.880	0.760	NATL. PORTFOLIO	30.7	0.00	37	42250	33113	0.78	0.79	0.77	0.77	0.01	0.784	845	5
0.760	0.680	REAL ESTATE INV.	13.5	0.00	10	5898	4291	0.75	0.74	0.69	0.69	0.06	0.728	125	5
0.720	0.780	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	0.00	0.00	16	26600	7551	0.30	0.30	0.28	0.28	0.02	0.285	782	5
1.100	1.100	MID. EAST HOTELS	209.0	0.00	6	8100	8889	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.09	0.01	1.097	147	2
2.020	1.990	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.7	2.04	18	11740	22174	1.97	1.96	1.94	1.96	0.01	1.958	008	4
0.910	0.890	SANKA EDUCATION	20.5	0.00	7	3550	3165	0.89	0.90	0.89	0.89	0.00	0.892	060	4
1.160	1.040	UNIFIED CO.	5.1	9.57	69	27350	31743	1.23	1.19	1.13	1.15	0.02	1.161	547	4
1.150	1.090	UNITED FOR FINAN. INV.	1.4	5.79	4	20450	22699	1.09	1.12	1.10	1.11	0.02	1.110	1023	2
CHANGE - 1.2.79%															
SERVICES SECTOR					261	203375	221822	INDEX NUMBER	1 105.72	CHANGE - 1.2.79%					
1.100	1.100	ATTANQUEB	0.00	0.00	1	1000	1100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00	1.100	036	1
2.010	1.930	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	11.5	5.37	29	8623	16783	1.97	1.96	1.93	1.94	0.03	1.946	014	5
1.650	1.600	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	16.6	0.00	6	1250	1891	1.60	1.60	1.57	1.57	0.03	1.593	003	4
4.740	4.740	JOR. POTASH CO.	19.4	5.06	16	91531	369736	4.74	4.74	4.74	4.74	0.00	4.740	110	1
10.500	10.510	JOR. PETROL. SECONDARY	16.1	0.00	30	59243	105430	10.50	10.60	10.51	10.52	0.01	10.560	088	5
1.050	1.013	WOLLEN INDUSTRIES	11.1	1.00	1	100	100	1.02	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.000	007	1
1.210	1.150	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AG.	67.4	0.00	12	2744	3130	1.15	1.15	1.12	1.14	0.01	1.141	055	3
5.800	5.650	JOR. MORTGAGE BILLS	7.9	3.31	9	993	5657	5.65	6.05	5.50	6.05	0.40	5.692	025	3
2.450	2.410	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	7.5	2.76	13	41364	148498	2.47	2.72	2.46	2.72	0.25	2.724	048	5
1.180	1.100	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	5.0	8.70	14	5863	6765	1.14	1.16	1.15	1.15	0.01	1.154	117	4
1.210	1.100	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	9.1	9.09	10	3230	3552	1.11	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.01	1.100	099	2
1.680	1.610	GENERAL MINING	116.4	4.22	3	425	727	1.68	1.73	1.64	1.66	0.02	1.711	043	3
7.000	6.850	ARAB CHEM. OUTREACH	7.7	7.19	2	58	407	6.85	6.95	6.95	6.95	0.00	6.911	009	1
0.830	0.800	UNIV. CHEM. INDOS.	8.4	8.70	14	2950	2751	0.83	0.82	0.80	0.82	0.09	0.808	130	4
1.710	1.570	ALABINCHI PH.	3.4	3.45	3	2400	474	1.57	2.44	2.32	2.32	0.25	2.380	013	2
0.760	0.700	NATL. CABLE MFGS. NFAC	33.8	0.00	2	1080	10579	0.72	0.74	0.72	0.72	0.00	0.732	193	5
0.430	0.380	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	7.8	0.00	100	141850	60598	0.41	0.45	0.40	0.41	0.02	0.427	3350	5
1.310	1.250	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	14.1	4.49	13	2688	3418	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	0.02	1.272	056	5
0.550	0.530	KAUFMAN INVEST.	0.00	0.00	9	3350	1574	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	0.01	0.470	148	4
0.590	0.570	HOOD. INDOS.	11.2	6.57	378	387250	262710	0.63	0.75	0.63	0.70	0.07	0.693	263	5
0.530	0.500	JOR. INDOS. RESOURCES	0.00	0.00	36	20250	10635	0.52	0.53	0.51	0.52	0.00	0.525	253	5
1.260	1.230	NATL. CHLORINE	8.0	7.94	9	41329	54342	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	0.00	1.260	599	3
0.690	0.600	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	9.0	15.43	72	24850	41921	0.65	0.68	0.64	0.64	0.01	0.659	376	5
1.300	1.140	EL. TR. HEADY WEAR	67.0	0.00	8	7900	9522	1.19	1.21	1.20	1.20	0.01	1.205	105	4
0.940	0.910	INTL. TOBACCO	7.4	5.56	100	47001	47251	0.92	1.05	0.92	1.05	0.13	1.005	392	5
1.000	0.770	ONIC CHEM. & VEG.	10.5	0.00	20	3839	3839	1.00	1.05	0.95	0.95	0.05	1.000	078	5
0.850	0.770	JORDAN STEEL	9.5	8.74	48	165082	142324	0.85	0.88	0.84	0.85	0.00	0.862	1101	5
0.690	0.640	NAT. ALUMINIUM	34.2	0.00	240	281271	193310	0.69	0.73	0.68	0.68	0.00	0.703	3175	4
0.560	0.530	MID. EASY COMPLEX	10.0	0.00	43	24000	12339	0.54	0.59	0.54	0.55	0.01	0.557	109	5
CHANGE - 1.4.46%															
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR					1588	1448018	1678138	INDEX NUMBER	1 79.65	CHANGE - 1.4.46%					
GRAND TOTAL					2308	2297148	4386842	INDEX NUMBER	1 175.65	CHANGE - 1.1.77%					



## Commonwealth Games Cyclists bounce back after day of drama; Oakes wins 6th medal

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Australia's cyclists put aside the shock expulsion of world champion teammate Lucy Tyler-Sharman to claim two golds and a silver, in Commonwealth Games velodrome action Friday.

Tyler-Sharman, kicked out by the Australians for criticizing cycling team officials, was believed to be on a flight home late Friday.

While Australian chef de mission Don Stockins acted swiftly to expel Tyler-Sharman, Canadian officials stood "100 percent" behind their field hockey players, who were involved in ugly scenes after a disputed loss Thursday.

The dramas overshadowed early competition on Day 8 Friday, but England's long-serving athlete Judy Oakes restored some of the gloss when she became the first track and field competitor to win a medal at six consecutive games.

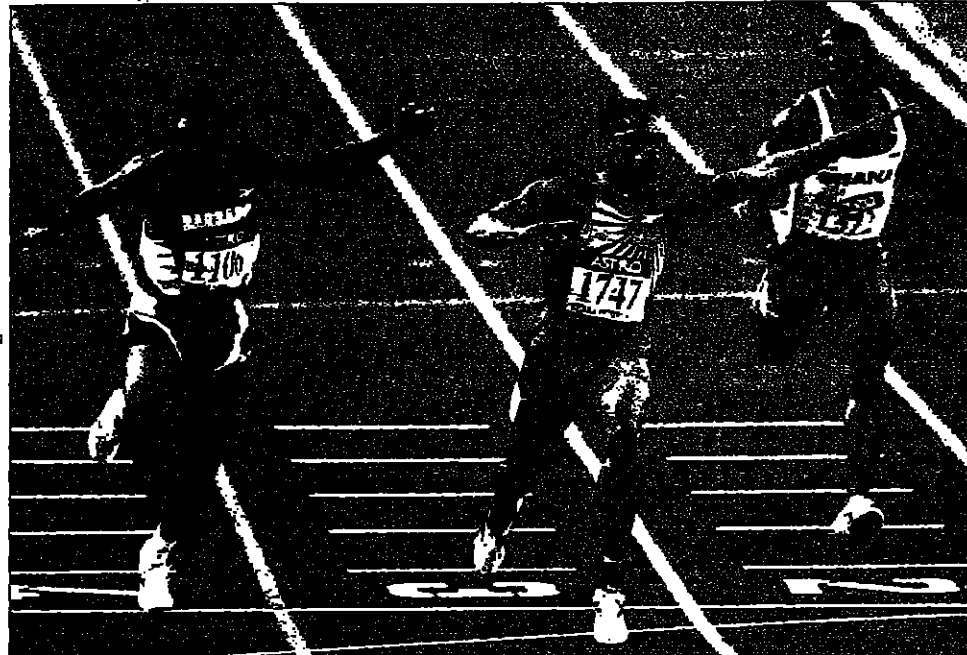
Oakes, sporting a golden wave in her hair, collected a medal to match with a winning effort of 18.83 meters on her first throw.

Friday's triumph makes it three golds, two silvers and a bronze since she made her games debut at Edmonton in 1978. Oakes won a bronze there, gold in Brisbane in '82, silver at Edinburgh in '86 and Auckland '90 and gold at Victoria, British Columbia, four years ago.

European and World Cup champion Iwan Thomas of Wales won a thrilling men's 400-meter final in a games record 44.52. He held out English rival Mark Richardson, with Sri Lanka's Sugath Thilakarathne third.

With women's world 400-meter champion Cathy Freeman out injured, Sandie Richards cruised to an easy victory, giving Jamaica its first gold in the event.

Onchie Achike gained a gold for England with a games record in the triple jump while Stuart Rendell captured Australia's third hammer title in a row, and



Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago (1747) jubilates after winning the men's 100-meter final during the 16th Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. Boldon clocked 9.88 seconds for the gold medal. Obadele Thompson of Barbados (1106) came into the third in 10.00 while Eric Nkansah-Appiah of Ghana (1372) finished sixth in 10.18 (AP Photo)

Andrea Blackett of Barbados also set a games mark to win the women's 400-meter hurdles.

The off-track cycling drama began when Tyler-Sharman, a former American who moved to Australia in 1991, accused team officials of sabotaging her bike after both feet came out of the pedals during her semifinal Thursday night. She also felt ill and speculated that her drinks might have been spiked.

The expulsion cost Tyler-Sharman her chance to ride for bronze in Friday's finals, and further embarrassed a cycling outfit dubbed Team Tabloid for its constant squabbling and bitter infighting.

Sarah Ulmer of New Zealand beat Australian Alayna Burns by 1.3 seconds for the gold in the pursuit. Ulmer finished in 3:41.667 in the afternoon heat and humidity, slower than the games record of 3:40.389 that Burns had set Thursday.

England's Yvonne McGregor won the

bronze uncontested.

Australian Brad McGee broke his own games record to claim the men's 4,000-meter individual pursuit in 4 minutes, 30.594 seconds, beating compatriot Luke Roberts in the final. Matt Illingworth won the bronze by outracing fellow Englishman Brad Wiggins.

World record holder Shane Kelly gave Australia its second gold from the three events Friday when he won the 1-kilometre time trial. Kelly, who won the 1997 world title after a disastrous slip cost him a chance at the 1996 Olympics, prevailed by 4 seconds over British record holder Jason Queally.

Canada's hockey players were the subject of a police report after causing minor damage to their locker room following their 2-1 loss to Malaysia. Spokeswoman Teresa Moore said the players made a full apology Friday and offered to cover the estimated \$25 cost to repair a damaged door.

She said the team, which angrily confronted Scottish

umpire David Wallis after his decision allowed Malaysia's late winner, only caused the damage because they were locked out of the dressing room and were scared of the crowd.

The hosts were also involved in controversy at the boxing ring Friday when English light flyweight Gary Jones went down 15-11 to local fighter Sapok Biki in their semifinal.

"I thought I won it and at the end of the day I've been robbed of a gold medal," said Jones. "He was nowhere near as good as me."

Malaysia picked up its fifth gold medal Friday when Nurul Huda Baharin won the women's individual air rifle event at Langkawi Island. She scored 494.8 points to win from Sharon Bowes of Canada (493.3) and Louise Minett of England (491.7).

Canada's James Paton won the men's individual full-bore rifle gold medal with 402 points. Malaysia's Zainal Abidin Md Zain took the silver with 400 and Andrew Luckman of

England collected the bronze, also with 400.

Canadian Metodi Igorov added a gold in the men's rapid fire pistol competition while New Zealand's Stephen Petterson, who won two golds in small-bore rifle shooting in the 1994 games, won another in the men's free rifle prone event. Igorov's gold, however, was put on hold because of a South African protest calling for proof of the Bulgarian native's Canadian nationality.

Australia's Olympic champion Michael Diamond won the men's individual trap in a shootout against England's Ian R. Peel.

New Zealand also won the first medal on offer in cricket at the Commonwealth Games when it beat Sri Lanka by 51 runs in the bronze medal playoff.

Allrounder Chris Harris was the star with an unbeaten 55 in the Kiwis 212-7 off 50 overs and took two wickets as Sri Lanka was all out for 161 in the 45th. Australia will play South Africa for the gold Saturday.

England claimed three gold and three silver medals in the 85-kilogramme weightlifting division. Leon Griffin won two golds in the overall and clean and jerk sections and silver in the snatch. Stephen Ward had the snatch gold and silver in the other two sections.

Australia's former world champion Kiril Kounev won all three medals in the 94kg division with a snatch of 165kg and clean and jerk of 205kg.

Despite the end of the swimming program, Australia was still dominant at the games pool Friday. Diver Chantelle Michell bounced to a gold medal on the 1-meter springboard, amassing 271.560 points from her five dives to beat Canadian pair Blythe Hartley (248.280) and Eryn Bulmer (239.400).



Newcastle United's Temuri Ketsbaia from Georgia (L) is held back by Partizan Belgrade's Goran Trobok during the second half of their UEFA Cup Winners Cup first round, first leg, game at St. James's Park. Newcastle won the game 2-1 (Reuters photo)



Lazio's Conceicao (R) heads for the ball away from Losanne's Iglesias during their European Cup Winners Cup first round first leg soccer match at Rome's Olympic stadium (Reuters photo)

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Nigeria ditch stars Ikpeba, Kanu, Amokachi

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria have dropped World Cup trio Victor Ikpeba, Daniel Amokachi and Nwankwo Kanu from their Nations' Cup squad, press reports said Friday. Ikpeba, the African Footballer of the Year, plays for Monaco in France, Daniel Amokachi for Turkish side Besiktas Istanbul and Kanu for Inter Milan in Italy. The Punch newspaper said the three, who all played in the World Cup earlier this year, had been axed from the 27-man squad to play Burkina Faso on October 4 in Ouagadougou. The group comprises 18 professionals and nine amateurs.

#### Ex-stars turn out for injured policeman

STRASBOURG (AFP) — Former French and German football stars will turn out in a Sunday charity match for a French policeman seriously injured by hooligans during the World Cup. Aime Jacquet, who resigned as France's coach after his team's World Cup win, and FIFA president Joseph Blatter will attend the game in the German town of Kehl. Organisers expect to raise over 30,000 pounds (around \$45,000). Ex-German striker Dieter Muller hoped the event would erase the memory of "this sad affair". Daniel Nivel, 43, spent six weeks in a coma after being clubbed and kicked by a group of German right-wing hooligans in Lens on June 21. He has partially recovered but is still undergoing treatment. Other players taking part include German internationals Rudi Voller, Horst Hrubesch and Felix Magath.

#### Man. United star Cruyff denies Barcelona betrayal

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United winger Jordi Cruyff responded angrily Friday to claims he gave Barcelona inside information on his teammates before this week's Champions League clash. Cruyff, who previously played for the Spanish club, said he was "furious" about the allegation, made by Barcelona goalkeeper Ruud Hesp before Wednesday's 3-3 draw. The two Dutchmen had met at Barcelona's pre-season training camp in England last month. But Cruyff claimed: "I never spoke to the Barcelona players about United and I'm disgusted and furious about this. He said his Manchester United colleagues had 'laughed because they know what I'm like.' They know I'm an honest player ... Alex Ferguson has told me not to worry about it because he knows how the world works." Cruyff said he had been extremely motivated for the game, adding: "I wanted to beat Barcelona because they are one of my former teams and it would have meant a lot to me if we had."

### Camacho makes seven changes in first national lineup

MADRID (AP) — The first lineup announced by Spain's new coach Jose Antonio Camacho Friday included seven changes from the team that suffered a humiliating defeat against semi-professional Cyprus two weeks ago.

The exhibition match against Russia next Wednesday will be Camacho's first as coach of the national side that was under Javier Clemente's command.

Camacho replaced Clemente on Tuesday, with a mission to shine up the squad's image tarnished by a disappointing World Cup performance and corroded by the Cyprus defeat in a European Championship qualifier.

Among the seven new call-ups only Jordi Lardin from Atletico de

Madrid has played for the national team before.

"The midfield is going to be completely new," Camacho told reporters, pointing to the inclusion of relative unknowns Vicente Egongio from Mallorca, Antonio "Ito" Perez from Betis, and Bitor Alkiza from Athletic de Bilbao.

After Camacho's shakeup, the national squad is most influenced by players from Real Madrid, Atletico de Madrid and Athletic de Bilbao all of which have three representatives. FC Barcelona is left with only two.

### England manager Hoddle faces World Cup grilling

LONDON (AFP) — England manager Glenn Hoddle was facing a grilling here on Friday as his handling of the team at the World Cup was scrutinised by the Football Association.

Hoddle, dogged by controversy since the tournament, gave his team report to the International Committee early Friday.

Many committee members, according to press reports, remain unhappy after the manager decided to publish a World Cup diary which contained controversial passages relating to key players.

His revelations that midfielder Paul Gascoigne went berserk and smashed up furniture after being dropped from the squad led to claims that Hoddle's lack of confidentiality would cost him the support of his own players.

He has also been criticised for his reliance on a faith-healer during the

tournament, while England defender Tony Adams has also criticised his methods. England were knocked out of the World Cup in the second round by Argentina.

Hoddle's position was weakened further by England's opening World Cup qualifier defeat by Sweden.

The way a furious Paul Ince reacted to his sending-off in Stockholm has raised questions about Hoddle's ability to discipline his players.

Hoddle's England future will be discussed next month when a special sub-committee will meet to decide whether or not to extend his contract to 2002.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yanes Theatre
	TEL: 463414	TEL: 463414	TEL: 5699238	TEL: 5677430	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 4625155
	Sophie Marceau ... in Leo Tolstoy's <b>ANNA KARENINA</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>NASSER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam ... in <b>AL ZA'EEM</b> Shows: 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD '1' <b>NASSER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' <b>UP CLOSE &amp; PERSONAL</b> Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria <b>ARMAGEDDON</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria <b>GREAT EXPECTATIONS</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	<b>WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY TERRORISM</b>



## Al Jazireh retain U-16 basketball title

By Roufan Nahhas

AMMAN — Al Jazireh's under 16 basketball team was Thursday crowned the U-16 Basketball champions for the second consecutive year after beating Al Orthodoxi 72-58 (33-26).

Al Orthodoxi came second and Al Wihdat came third after beating Al Hussein 82-46 (35-20).

Al Jazireh were the only team to end the tournament with an unbeaten record.

The competition grouped seven teams from Amman in Group A and five teams from Irbid in Group B.

The top four in the Amman group qualified for the final round leaving behind Raya, Abu Nusair and Al Jeel while two teams qualified from the Irbid group leaving behind Gazzet Hashem Ashrafieh and Samma.



Chicago Cubs Sammy Sosa holds up the ball he hit for a grand slam and his 63rd home run of the year as he was presented it by Fabian Perez Mercado, the fan who caught the hit during the game last night. The home run tied Mark McGwire for the league lead (Reuters photo)

## Full-time refs plan for English Premiership

LONDON (AFP) — A major shake-up in the way the English Premiership is refereed could see the introduction of professional officials wearing advertising and television replays of controversial goals.

The Premier League claim the proposed revolution will enable referees to meet the demands of the modern game and it could be in place before the millennium.

League spokesman Mike Lee said feedback from referees was encouraging and the League would now be contacting football's other governing bodies.

"Some of the proposals could be up and running for next season but at this

point they are just ideas under discussion and nothing has been agreed yet.

"The thinking behind it all is to make sure there is continuous improvement in refereeing standards and that we are addressing the needs of the modern game."

"We're also taking into account much of the public debate that goes on among fans about referees."

The man responsible for many of the ideas is Philip Don, the League's first referees' officer.

"His (Don's) job is to look at ways of developing the officiating of the game and he has been doing some good thinking around these issues."

"The feedback Philip has been get-

ting from referees has been positive."

Don explained video replays would only be used to determine if a shot went in the goal or not.

"The ball crossing the goal line is fact, while the likes of fouls and infringements are down to the referee's opinion," he said.

Referees could wear advertising on their shirts to help meet the cost of their salaries.

Lee added: "That is something which is being considered and we need to talk to FIFA because there are rules restricting the size of any mark or logo on a referee's shirt."

## Beckenbauer becomes member of German Soccer Federation board

FRANKFURT (AP) — Franz Beckenbauer, a former star who is now chairman of Bayern Munich, will become a member of the board of the German Soccer Federation (DFB), the DFB announced Friday.

Beckenbauer's job will be to be responsible for "future

questions" of the DFB and to be closely linked with Germany's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup.

Earlier, a report said Germany's soccer boss wants Beckenbauer to return to the national team, not as coach but as "team director" — a new post

apparently created to put "Der Kaiser" indirectly in charge.

The report by the biweekly magazine Kicker, Germany's top soccer publication, was posted on its web site.

It said German soccer federation (DFB) president Egidius Braun made the proposal at the meeting of DFB officials in Frankfurt Friday.

There was no immediate reaction to the report from DFB officials and it was not immediately clear if working with the national team was also part of Beckenbauer's job description.

By becoming national team director, a previously non-existent post, Beckenbauer would in effect become boss of coach Erich Ribbeck and his assistant Uli Stielike, who were named last week to replace Berti Vogts.

Kicker said Beckenbauer's official position would be to "support" Ribbeck and Stielike.

But with his enormous influence in German soccer and his charisma, it would

be hard to imagine Beckenbauer playing second fiddle to Ribbeck and Stielike.

Ribbeck declined to comment on the report.

"I don't want to confirm or deny anything," he said. "I can only say something when it's official."

Beckenbauer, a former star who captained Germany to the 1974 World Cup title, coached the nation to its third and last World Cup triumph in 1990 in Italy.

He declined to take charge of the national team again when Vogts resigned under severe public criticism for Germany's quarterfinal failure at this summer's World Cup and two dismal performances at two exhibition games earlier this month.

Braun himself has come under fire for his handling of the question of Vogts' succession and several soccer personalities have proposed Beckenbauer for DFB president.

After initially not ruling himself out, Beckenbauer said earlier two days ago he was not striving for the job.

## Shadian breaks record, upsets veterans to win Speed Test

By Roufan Nahhas

AMMAN — Speed expert Khauchik Shadian in a Renault 5 GT Turbo broke the two minute barrier clocking 1:58.87 to win the 7th round of the Pepsi Speed Test Friday organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Veteran Ghaith Bilbeissi in a Toyota Starlet TRD came in second clocking 2:01.05 and Yasser Jarrar, runner-up in July's speed test, came third in his Daihatsu Charade GTi with a time of 2:02.07.

Thirty four drivers took part in the breath-taking event which witnessed a heated confrontation between Shadian and Bilbeissi.

In the first round Bilbeissi took control leaving Jarrar and Shadian behind. But Shadian returned in the second round leaving Bilbeissi in second place and Jarrar in third position.

In the last round, Shadian surprised all by putting an end to all his opponent's attempts by taking the lead and breaking the two minute barrier.

Veteran drivers Bilbeissi, Sinan Saudi and Tabaa' brothers' participation in the event gave it a special flavour.

The event also witnessed a return of women drivers. Sawan Batikhi came in last and her sister Abeer came in 24th after a long absence from the rally scene.

The speed test consisted of two

rounds and one special round for the best 10 drivers.

According to speed test regulations, competitors were provided with a map of the route one day before the event and were not allowed to drive through the course since pre-trials are not permitted which makes it more exciting to watch.

Results of the rally will be entered the Jordan Open National Championship for 1998 Drivers and Jordan Open National Speed Test/Rumman Championship for 1998 Drivers.

Prizes and trophies were presented to the winners in a special ceremony at RACJ premises.

## Arsenal rule out bid for Shearer

LONDON (AFP) — English champions Arsenal on Friday ruled out a bid for England targetman Alan Shearer despite the club's dearth of goals this season.

Manager Arsene Wenger, whose side take on Manchester United at home on Sunday, said he would instead try to develop French fledgling striker Nicolas Anelka.

There is speculation over whether Shearer, the England captain, has a future at Newcastle after the arrival of new manager Roud Gullit.

Wenger, however, said: "Shearer is a great player but I think at the moment it's important to keep the door open for Anelka as first choice because he is only 19 years old."

"I believe that Nicolas will be a great striker and I have to give him a chance to play."

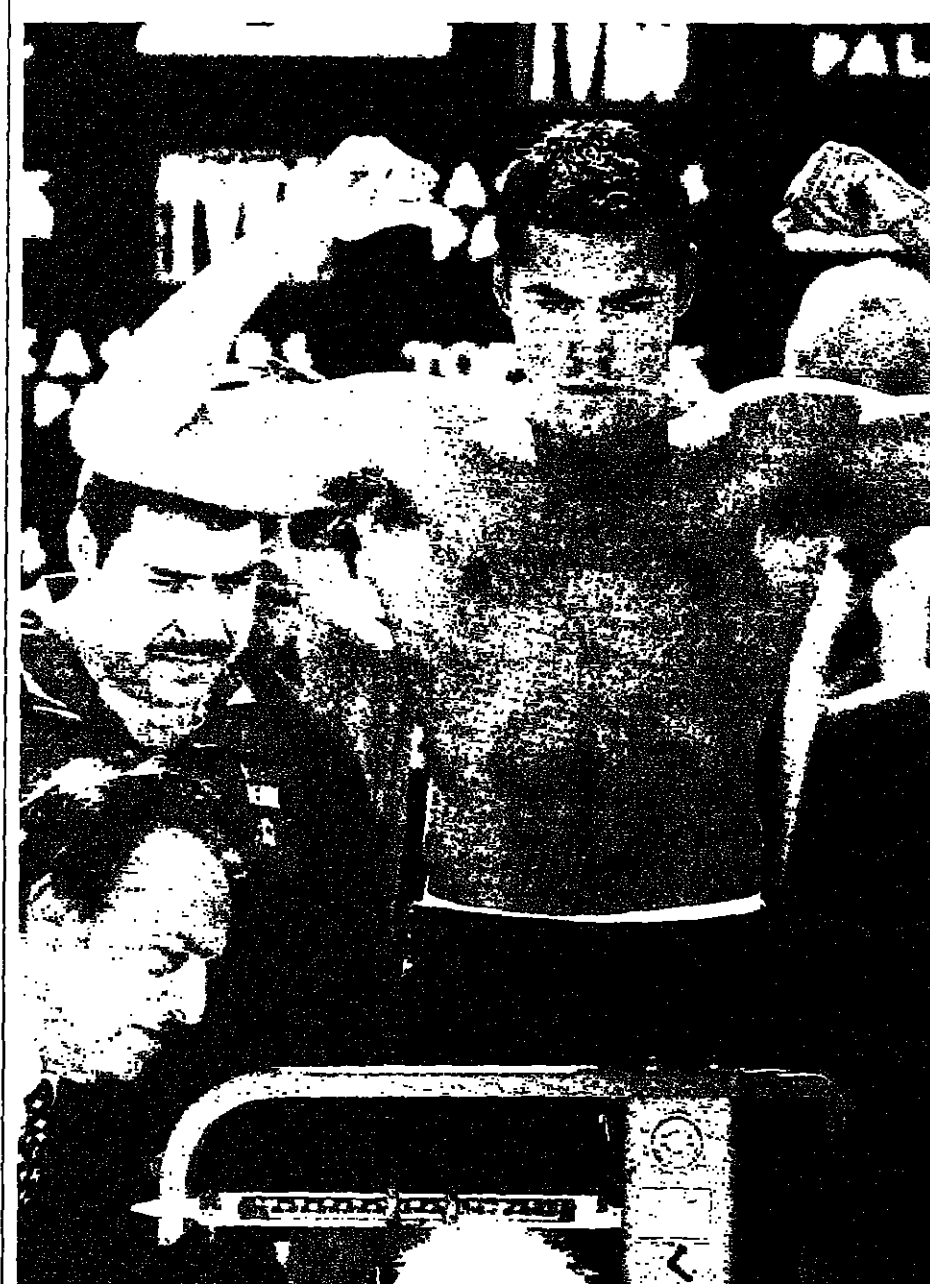
Anelka showed electrifying pace against French side Lens in the Champions League this week but missed a string of chances during the 1-1 draw.

Wenger, however, said: "Anelka will be a tremendous player if he can repeat the sort of performance he had against Lens. He has to show that same desire in every game."

Sweden international striker Fredrik Ljungberg, meanwhile, snapped up by Arsenal for £3 million (around \$4.5 million) from Swedish side Halmstad BK, is likely to feature on Sunday against United.

He has been bought following the sale of the club's record goalscorer Ian Wright to West Ham during the close season.

The 21-year-old warned, however: "I am not a goalscorer like him ... don't expect me to score the same number of goals as he did."



Oscar De La Hoya of the United States weighs in at 146.5 lbs. during an official weigh in outside Caesars Palace Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. De La Hoya defends his WBC Welterweight title against Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico. Chavez weighed in 144.5 lbs (Reuters photo)

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Both vulnerable West deals  
**NORTH**  
♠ Q 8 7 6  
♥ A 7  
♦ K 9 7 6 2  
♣ K 5  
**EAST**  
♠ A 10 5 4 3  
♥ Q Void  
♦ Q J 8 5 4  
♣ A 7 4 3  
**SOUTH**  
♠ Void  
♥ K 9 8 6 5 4  
♦ A  
♣ A Q J 10 2  
The bidding:  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
Pass 10 Pass 10  
Pass 1A Pass 3A  
Pass 3C Pass 4A  
Pass 8C Pass 6C  
Pass Pass  
Opening lead: King of ♠  
How would you play the trump suit in a small slam at hearts in rubber bridge? Would you play the same way in duplicate pairs?  
North's jump to five hearts on the fourth round of the auction was well-judged. Since North had done no more than take a simple preference to hearts on the previous round, the high honor in each of partner's suits merited some action

r Hoddle  
grilling

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or not to...  
extend his...

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